

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON MARCH 24, 2005,
COMMENCING AT 9:37 A.M.**

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
KEN OFFORD
VICTOR PETRUK (left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.)
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#58/05 H. SYED – That the following item be added to the agenda:

New Business

6.17 Edwin Parr Nomination 2005

CARRIED

ECS FEES – LOCAL FEES

Dr. Phillips noted that he had received a request from a principal with respect to charging local ECS fees for specialized supplies for crafts, memory books, some field trips, etc.

Trustees agreed by consensus to permit schools to levy a fee to ECS students for such projects.

Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR, 2007-08

Dr. Payne presented, for Board consideration, a draft 2007-08 school year calendar that was prepared using the guiding principles for preparing previous calendars.

#59/05 K. OFFORD – That the 2007-08 school year calendar be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Dr. Payne left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DESIGNATIONS

#60/05 K. OFFORD – That the Board reorganizes the Special Education department to have two positions of Special Education Coordinators, effective February 1, 2005; and further that one additional Special Education Coordinator position be created, effective September 1, 2005.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Mr. Rick Jarrett, Division Principal, joined the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Mr. Jarrett provided a summary of the first consultative meeting of the year, held on March 23, 2005 with the Round Hill and Hay Lakes Schools.

Further meetings will be scheduled with other schools with local Trustees in attendance. Meetings currently scheduled are:

- April 5, 2005 – New Norway, Edberg, and Bashaw Schools
- April 11, 2005 – Community meeting with Loughheed, Hardisty and Sedgewick Schools
- April 20, 2005 – Rosalind and Bawlf Schools
- April 21, 2005 – Daysland and Strome Schools

Mr. Don Gillies joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Mr. Jarrett left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

EDWIN PARR NOMINATION 2005

Mr. Gillies presented the Edwin Parr nominee for the 2004-05 school year. This award recognizes a first year K-12 teacher.

#61/05 K. OFFORD – That the Board nominates Kelsey Lawson, teacher at Killam School, for the ASBA Edwin Parr Award for the 2004-05 school year.

CARRIED

Mr. Gillies left the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

LEGALITIES OF STUDENTS SIGNING WITNESS STATEMENTS

Trustee Syed noted that a student under the age of 16 years cannot sign anything without a parent present, and recommended that parents always be contacted in such a case.

Dr. Phillips noted that many things happen in schools where the students write out what they saw and sign this written statement, which the principals use, but is not turned over to the police. If a situation becomes a police matter, then the expectation is that the parents will be contacted. In some cases the principal will stand in for a parent with the principal acting in the role of the parent rather than the principal. There is only one situation where police can talk directly to a student without parental permission and that is in the case of "hot pursuit", which occurs when police have direct evidence that a student may have been involved in criminal activity.

LEGALITIES OF MEDICAL TESTING ON STUDENTS

Trustee Syed noted that medical testing on students cannot be done without the prior permission of the parent(s). He noted that if a child needs medical treatment, parents should always be contacted.

Mr. Bosh, Deputy Superintendent, reported that in Battle River School Division #31 schools, parents sign a permission form for vaccinations through the Health Authorities. Dental checkups are also done through permission forms signed by parents.

Dr. Phillips noted that there is some screening done via community groups for hearing and sight. He has provided permission for these groups to go into schools to conduct these screenings on the understanding that consent is given by parents for their children to be involved in this.

With respect to a student in distress, Dr. Phillips noted that there are a significant number of students with allergies and use an EpiPen if needed. School personnel are required to follow policy with respect to administering medications to students. Legal advice on the use of EpiPens is that if a six year old student is stung by a bee, as an example, the EpiPen should be given to the student to administer the medication.

Mr. Rick Jarrett, Division Principal, joined the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Mr. Jarrett reported on a meeting of the Small Schools Committee held on March 14, 2005. Mr. Jarrett noted that he visited five schools in the Prairie Rose School Division that have alternative programming. He is looking for other schools to visit that provide multi-age programming.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened at 1:28 p.m.

Mr. Rick Jarrett, Division Principal, and Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Mr. Jarrett noted that a date has been scheduled for principals of small schools to review the virtual school and explore its potential.

SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE (continued)

Mr. Jarrett reviewed with Trustees an implementation proposal for multiage/multi-grade programming. This is a proposal that was prepared with input from six principals whose schools are, or will be, experiencing a significant decline in their enrolments next year or in the near future.

#62/05

H. SYED – That the Board approves \$27,500 from the Declining Enrolment Grant surplus for the implementation of the multiage/multi-grade proposal for the 2005-06 school year.

CARRIED

#63/05 H. SYED – That the issue of increased staffing for the multiage/multi-grade implementation proposal be deferred to budget discussions for the 2005-06 school year.

CARRIED

Trustee Petruk left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Mr. Jarrett and Dr. Payne left the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

ASBA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Alberta School Boards Association has scheduled a meeting on April 30, 2005 for the purpose of considering a new teacher bargaining model. The meeting has been called in response to the Minister of Education’s request that the ASBA accelerate its process to develop a new teacher bargaining model.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Dr. Phillips informed Trustees that the consultant for the construction of a new Performing Arts Centre in Camrose telephoned him and posed a number of questions to be presented to the Board. The consultant has identified a possible site on the Camrose Composite High School grounds, just north of the school. The questions focused on the Board’s interest in this possibility. Trustee indicated a positive response to this, noting that appropriate agreements would have to be in place for this to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete, and there being no dissent, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

BRENDA HERDER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA..... 35
ECS FEES – LOCAL FEES 35
SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR, 2007-08..... 36
SPECIAL EDUCATION DESIGNATIONS..... 36
CONSULTATIVE PROCESS..... 36
EDWIN PARR NOMINATION 2005..... 37
LEGALITIES OF STUDENTS SIGNING WITNESS STATEMENTS 37
LEGALITIES OF MEDICAL TESTING ON STUDENTS..... 37
SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE..... 38
ASBA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 39
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE 39