

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON NOVEMBER 25, 2004,
COMMENCING AT 9:35 A.M.**

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
KEN OFFORD (arrived at the meeting at 2:20 p.m.)
VICTOR PETRUK
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
TIM CHAMBERLIN, Communications Officer (left the meeting at 3:47 p.m.)
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR

CONGRATULATIONS – BAWLF SCHOOL

Trustees extended their congratulations to the students and staff at Bawlf School for receiving the W Garfield Weston Award for Academics in Excess of Expectations from the Fraser Institute for the fifth consecutive year. Trustees were also informed that Bawlf School was nominated for, and placed second in, the category 'Overall Academic Excellence for Non-Selective Schools'.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#252/04 H. SYED – That the agenda be approved with the following amendment:

- 1) Battle River Education Foundation

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#253/04 P. ZENIUK – That the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on November 2, 2004 and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 2, 2004 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

STROME SCHOOL CONDITION REPORT

Superintendent of Schools Phillips reviewed the enrolments at the Strome School and noted that declining enrolments in the next four or five years are projected for the Strome School. The Strome School building is in need of a full roof replacement. The cost of a complete modernization of the Strome School would cost approximately \$1.7 million. There is considerable work that needs to be done in the short term at a projected cost of approximately \$600,000.

#254/04 G. OBERG – That the Board accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, which states that the Board engages in a consultative process with the Strome School community that:

- 1) strives to build a trusting relationship between the various stakeholder groups;
- 2) focuses on how to provide the best educational opportunities for the students in the Strome School community in a cost effective manner;
- 3) provides an opportunity to create an understanding of the factors that will create change in the Strome School;
- 4) explores as many alternatives as possible;
- 5) discusses the viability and feasibility of the various alternatives; and
- 6) selects the best alternative for the students, community and the school system.

CARRIED

#255/04 V. PETRUK – That the Board directs the Board Chair and the members of the Battle River School Division #31 Capital Planning Committee to meet with representatives from Alberta Infrastructure with respect to the Strome School Condition Report.

CARRIED

ALLIANCE, EDBERG, ROSALIND AND STROME SCHOOLS

The Alliance, Edberg, Rosalind and Strome Schools each have one division with enrolments lower than the critical minimum enrolments as outlined in policy FL 'School/Program Closure'.

#256/04 P. ZENIUK – That the Board accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, which states that the Board recognizes that the educational programs in the Alliance, Edberg, Rosalind and Strome Schools are sound and that those programs should not be considered for closure at this time.

CARRIED

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Greg Wood and Dianne Scarisbrick, Auditors; as well as Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager for Battle River School Division #31, to the meeting and invited the presentation of the audited financial statement.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

RESERVES TRANSFERS

#257/04 H. SYED – That the Board transfers \$300,000 from “Transportation-Operations” to the reserve for “Transportation-Bus Purchases”;

That the Board transfers \$180,000 from “Administration-Operations” to the reserve for “Administration-Copiers/Computers”; and further

That the Board transfers \$30,000 from “Administration-Operations” to the reserve for “Administration-Building Repair and Maintenance”.

CARRIED

#258/04 V. PETRUK – That the Board transfers \$100,000 from “Instruction-Operations” to a reserve for “Instruction Technology-Equipment”; and

That the Board transfers \$50,000 from “Instruction-Operations” to a reserve for “Computer Services –Operations”.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2003-04

#259/04 C. SMITH – That the Board accepts the *Audited Financial Statement 2003-04* as presented.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:23 p.m.

JUNIOR HIGH BAND REQUEST – FORESTBURG SCHOOL

#260/04 H. SYED – That the Board allocates \$15,000 to the Forestburg School for the purchase of band instruments and supplies.

CARRIED

HEISLER SCHOOL DISPOSITION

Trustees were provided with further information with respect to the possible purchase of the Heisler School building.

#261/04 V. PETRUK – That motion \$249/04, which reads “That the Board of Trustees approves the disposition of the Heisler School land and building to the Heisler Family and Community Social Services for the sum of \$1.00, and that the Board agrees to transfer the funds approved for the demolition of the Heisler School in the amount of \$204,460 to the Heisler FCSS, subject to verification of the Heisler FCSS as a recognized entity; and further that the Heisler FCSS grants Battle River School Division #31 permission to retain its wide-area network tower on the Heisler school grounds and that Battle River School Division #31 be granted access to electrical power for the tower for an indefinite period of time for the sum of \$1.00” be rescinded.

CARRIED

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Division Principal, Rick Jarrett, joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Chairman Herder outlined the initiation and implementation of the consultative process with school communities during the past school year.

Dr. Phillips questioned the Trustees with respect to their desire to continue the consultative process. There was general agreement to do so.

#262/04 V. PETRUK – That the Board continues with the consultative process and work with Division Office administration to effect the process.

CARRIED

SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Jarrett reported that the Lougheed, Round Hill, Rosalind and Strome Schools staffs have expressed an interest in the consideration of a multi-age school. Meetings will be held on December 14, 2004 at the Rosalind School and January 18, 2004 to pursue this idea.

Mr. Jarrett left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2003-04

Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 2:11 p.m. to present the Annual Education Results Report 2003-04.

Trustee Offord joined the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Dr. Phillips expressed thanks to Dr. Payne for all the work he did in producing the Annual Education Results Report 2003-04.

Dr. Payne left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

ROTARY SPONSORED YOUTH-AT-RISK OUTDOOR TRIP

Trustees were informed that the Camrose Rotary plans to sponsor 10 at-risk youth on an outdoor adventure trip. The students will be accompanied by trained guides from the Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta and will spend about a week canoeing on the Red Deer River.

#263/04 H. SYED – That Battle River School Division #31 assists the Camrose Rotary Club in providing an outdoor trip for at-risk youth in the City of Camrose.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2003-04

#264/04 C. SMITH – That the Board approves the Annual Education Results Report 2003-04 as amended.

CARRIED

USE OF KILLAM PUBLIC SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

The principal of the Killam School received a request from the Flagstaff Home Schoolers for the use of the Killam Public School gym and equipment twice a month on Saturday mornings.

#265/04 G. OBERG – That the Flagstaff Home Schoolers be permitted to use the Killam School gymnasium at the discretion of the school principal, and that the group choose one of the following options: that the group use the gymnasium only with no equipment at \$20 per use or that the group use the gymnasium with selected consumable equipment at \$50 per use, with the principal determining with the group what the selected consumable equipment will be.

CARRIED

OXFORD ROUND TABLE INVITATION

Dr. Phillips informed Trustees that Mr. Doug Bowie, Principal at the Bawlf School, has been invited to attend the Oxford Round Table at St. Antony's College in the University of Oxford, England. The Oxford Round Table meets annually to consider major issues in contemporary educational policy. The purpose of the Oxford Round Table is to promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education. To this end, the Oxford Round Table provides a forum for the study and consideration of current issues facing state and national systems of education. Invitations are sent to selected persons through the country. These individuals are identified through several screening processes.

#266/04 H. SYED – That the Board provides a grant to a maximum of \$4,000 to assist in the cost of the registration and airfare to England to support Mr. Doug Bowie’s participation in the Oxford Round Table.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES, CONTENT LITERACY 15 AND 25

#267/04 K. OFFORD – That the Boards request permission from Alberta Education to use the Edmonton Catholic Schools locally developed courses, Content Literacy 15 and 25 in Battle River School Division #31 schools for the school years 2004-07.

CARRIED

SCHOOL COUNCILS REGULATION REVIEW

Chairman Herder, and Trustees Oberg and Petruk will review the School Council Regulation and submit a Board response to Alberta Learning.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR LONG SERVICE AND RETIREMENT

Trustees reviewed the program for the Employee Recognition for Long Service and Retirement banquet scheduled for December 4, 2004.

BATTLE RIVER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Trustee Oberg noted that the Medicine Hat School Division has established an education foundation for the purpose of supporting the purchase of non-budgetary items. This group annually hosts a golf tournament to raise funds. Mr. Oberg suggested that the Board of Trustees for Battle River School Division #31 consider establishing an education foundation that would be a joint venture between the Board and ATA Local #32 that would sponsor a golf tournament. The funds raised would be under the direction of the Foundation, and could involve a major corporate sponsor different than those that currently provide prizes for the annual Battle River School Division #31 curling bonspiel.

This item will be placed on the agenda for the Board/ATA Liaison Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 29, 2004.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:47 p.m. and reconvened at 4:01 p.m.

Communications Officer Chamberlin left the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Director of Transportation, Brenda Johnson, joined the meeting at 4:01 p.m. to present a report to the Trustees.

Director of Transportation Authority

#268/04 H. SYED – That the Board authorizes the Director of Transportation to make decisions with respect to the ridership of school and/or Divisional Administrative personnel on school bus routes.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Chairman Herder noted that this portion of the agenda is here to provide the opportunity for Trustees who attend conferences, workshops, etc. to report on their attendance to the Board. Other significant happenings can also be reported during this portion of the meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Trustees individually reviewed the information items in the folder.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Smith resigned from the Student Affairs Committee and nominated Gerry Oberg. Chairman Herder withdrew her name from serving as an alternate on the Student Affairs Committee. Gerry Oberg nominated Cheryl Smith to serve as the alternate.

There were no further nominations. Therefore, Gerry Oberg was elected to serve on the Student Affairs Committee and Cheryl Smith will serve as an alternate.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met several times during November to set the agenda for the Trustees Planning Session and to review the agenda for this meeting.

Capital Planning Committee

The Capital Planning Committee held its first meeting today prior to the Board meeting. It was noted that Gerry Oberg was appointed to serve as the Chair of the Capital Planning Committee.

Infrastructure Maintenance Program Costs

#269/04 V. PETRUK – That the Board approves the following items from the Infrastructure Maintenance Program (IMP) budget, formerly known as the Building Quality Restoration Program (BQRP):

\$2,700 for an auto-door opener for the main doors at Charlie Killam School;
\$6,800 for a domestic hot water system at Camrose Composite High School; and
\$8,000 for an extension of the Program Unit Funding room at the C W Sears School.

CARRIED

School Tours

The itinerary for the December 10 and 13, 2004 tours of schools within Battle River School Division #31 was distributed.

LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS

#270/04 V. PETRUK – That the Board sends letters of congratulations to Minister of Education Gene Zwozdesky; Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Lyle Oberg; LeRoy Johnson, MLA, Wetaskiwin-Camrose; Doug Griffiths, MLA, Battle River-Wainwright; George Rogers, MLA, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon; Ray Prins, MLA, Lacombe-Ponoka and Ed Stelmach, MLA. Fort Saskatchewan-Vergreville.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

ASBA Reports and Information

An ASBA Zone 4 meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 29, 2004 at the Clearview School Division offices.

ASEBP Report

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported that at the last Board of Directors meeting of the Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan the Board approved an amendment to the extended disability plan with respect to a cost of living adjustment and to offering a retirement incentive program for those persons on extended disability.

Drug Response Task Force

Trustee Smith noted that the Drug Response Task Force is working on two grant proposals.

Administrators' Meeting

There will be no Administrators' Meeting in December 2004. Dr. Phillips reported on the Administrators' Meeting held on November 9, 2004.

ATA Liaison Meeting

The ATA/Board Liaison Meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2004 at the Norsemen Inn.

Performing Arts Center Committee

The Performing Arts Centre Committee is holding a workshop on December 4, 2004 to determine where the focus of their efforts should be with respect to the construction of a Performing Arts Centre in Camrose.

School Tours

Dates for further school tours was set for January 7 and 21, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chairman Herder adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

BRENDA HERDER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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