

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON APRIL 10, 2003,
COMMENCING AT 9:07 A.M.**

PRESENT

JUDY FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON
BRENDA HERDER
MICHELE MULDER
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
WAYNE THRONDSOON
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
STEPHEN SMITH, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#87/03 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That the agenda be approved with the addition of the items on the distributed add-on sheet.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#88/03 W. THRONDSOON – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 13 and 27, 2003 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Spelliscy, Director of Operations and Maintenance, was not present to provide a report to the Board, however Dr. Phillips reported that a review has been done with respect to expenditures in the area of utilities. It was noted that expenditures for utilities is approximately \$327,000 over budget at this time and there is an expected shortfall amounting to \$450,000 - \$500,000 by the end of the budget year.

- #89/03 B. SEARS – That the Board writes a letter to the Minister of Infrastructure, copied to the MLAs in Battle River Regional Division #31 and to the Alberta School Boards Association, with respect to the increase of utility costs over and above expectations and the funding received in the utility portion of the Operations and Maintenance grants.

CARRIED

VIKING SCHOOL COUNCIL REQUEST

Trustees reviewed a letter received from the Viking School Council requesting consideration of moving the entrance age of children in kindergarten to be five as of September 30th of the year in which they enter ECS. The current policy reads that children must be five years of age by December 31st of the year in which they enter ECS.

Following discussion, Trustees determined, by consensus, that the current policy will remain in effect.

DIVISION ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE ASBA ANNUAL REPORT

Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith noted that ASBA has again asked for Division successes for its annual report, and outlined the following achievements of the Board, noting that these have been submitted in previous years: growth in the area of achievement tests, growth in off-campus education program, and staff development opportunities. Other possibilities include: work done on career development programs, virtual school offerings, and the successes of the AISI projects.

Trustees selected 'work done on career development programs'. Mr. Smith will prepare the report and submit it to the Alberta School Boards Association.

POLICY IHCE 'STUDENT ACCIDENTS' AMENDMENT

- #90/03 M. MULDER – That the Board accepts the amendments as noted in the revision of policy IHCE 'Student Accidents'.

CARRIED

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Use of Police Service Dogs to Search School Lockers

- #91/03 W. THRONDSOON – That the Board accepts the draft administrative procedure 'Use of Police Service Dogs to Search School Lockers' as amended.

CARRIED

POLICY HL 'TESTING PROCEDURE' AMENDMENT

The proposed amendment to policy HL 'Testing Procedure' was deemed to be unnecessary as the proposed amendments can be determined by administrative discretion.

FORESTBURG SCHOOL OPENING

A member of the Forestburg community made a suggestion to name the library after a Forestburg principal. The School Council from that school suggested that a plaque be placed at the school listing the names of all the principals that served at Forestburg School.

- #92/03 G. OBERG – That, as part of the opening of the modernization at Forestburg School, the Board donates a plaque listing all the school principals who served at the Forestburg School.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Following receipt of a petition and request from community members in the City of Camrose, Dr. Phillips investigated the possibility of providing a French Immersion Program in the City of Camrose.

- #93/03 M. MULDER – That the Board establishes a committee consisting of two trustees, one member of the superintendency, interested principals, and two parents to further investigate the feasibility and long-term viability of a French Immersion program within the City of Camrose.

CARRIED

Trustees Thronson and Poyser and Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith agreed to serve on this Committee.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET REPORT IMPACT

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte noted that not a great deal is known with respect to the impact the provincial budget will have on Battle River Regional Division #31. He did note that the grant to basic instruction will increase 2%. Transportation will receive a 3% increase and the severe disabilities programs will receive an 8% increase based on projected enrolments. There will also be some funding for school technology upgrading. A more in-depth analysis will follow.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:14 a.m. and reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

INVITATION TO THE GRADUATION AT RYLEY SCHOOL

In response to a request for a Trustee to attend the graduation at the Ryley School, Trustee Sears indicated that he would be pleased to attend.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Sears noted that he attended a meeting with members of the Hutterite Colonies in February to discuss encouraging students at the Colonies to stay in school after the age of 15 years. Another meeting was held on April 7, 2003 with the German teachers, ministers and teachers from the Colonies to discuss implementing a program in the Colony

Schools similar to the 'Green Certificate' program. It was noted that several Colonies were receptive to this.

Trustee Zeniuk spoke about sessions that she attended at the National Congress on Rural Education in Saskatoon in April 2003. A written report on the sessions she attended was distributed to Trustees.

Trustee Fitzmaurice-Johnson noted that she attended an information session at Augustana University College on April 8, 2003 with respect to the Drug Response Task Force.

RESULTS IN DIPLOMA EXAMINATION SUBJECTS, JANUARY 2003

Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith reviewed the results of the January 2003 diploma examinations.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (10:55 a.m.)

#94/03 W. THRONDSO – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 11:51 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:51 a.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

#95/03 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That the Board ratifies the payment of the accounts for March 2003.

CARRIED

NOMINEE – EDWIN PARR AWARD

#96/03 M. MULDER – That the Board supports the nomination of Carrie Stewart as the nominee from Battle River Regional Division #31 for the Edwin Parr Award.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Poyser reviewed the information items as noted on the distributed copies of the agenda.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTSNegotiating Committee

The Negotiating Committee met with Mac Macdonald from ASBA, on April 9, 2003. Another meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2003.

Small Schools Committee

The Small Schools Committee met in Bashaw on March 19, 2003. The Committee reviewed the facility at Bashaw where junior and senior high students do more “hands on” work incorporating practical work such as pouring concrete sidewalks. The Agriculture Society permits the use of its building for these classes. The Committee also heard a presentation from the Principal at Bashaw School with respect to the community school liaison position currently in place at that School.

The Small Schools Conference is scheduled in Red Deer for April 11 and 12, 2003.

Capital Plan Committee Update

Trustee Sears reported on the items of business discussed by the Capital Plan Committee, namely: the grounds at the Charlie Killam School, the CAPS conservation program in schools, and the playgrounds at Killam, Bawlf, Round Hill and CH-SPS.

Mr. Sears noted that a basketball court, tennis court and berm is being considered for the Charlie Killam School grounds. Mr. Sears further noted that the Committee will be providing some funding to the Killam, Bawlf, Round Hill and CH-SPS schools as playground support. The Committee is pleased to note that almost every school in Battle River Regional Division #31 is participating in the CAPS conservation program. These inspections will take place on April 28-May 2, and May 12-16, 2003.

#97/03

P. ZENIUK – That the Board divides equally the \$15,000 from the playground fund to Killam, Bawlf, Round Hill and CH-SPS schools, which will provide \$3750 to each school.

CARRIED

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 4

Trustee Oberg reported on his attendance at the ASBA Zone 4 meeting held in Camrose on March 24, 2003, noting that the main topic of discussion was the renewed funding framework. The next zone meeting is at the offices of Red Deer Catholic school system on April 28, 2003.

Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith noted that the public speaking competition will be held in Lacombe on April 12, 2003.

Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP) Report

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported that at the last ASEBP meeting, the Board of Directors passed second reading with respect to premium rates for next year.

Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) Committee

Trustee Fitzmaurice-Johnson informed Trustees that a draft proposal is being prepared with respect to next year's AISI funding.

Administrators' Meeting

Trustee Sears reported on his attendance at the Administrators' Meeting held on April 8, 2003.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

Director of Transportation Johnson joined the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF MOTION – HEISLER SCHOOL

#98/03 B. SEARS – That the Heisler School be closed as of June 30, 2003, and further that the Board, following input from parents of students in the Heisler School, determine the school(s) to which to direct the Heisler students.

CARRIED

Divisional Office administrative staff was requested to bring forward recommendations to the April 23rd meeting with respect to the transition.

Chairman Poyser noted that the Minister of Learning will be notified of the closure of the school, and informed community members present for this item that an appeal can be made to the Minister if anyone feels that the closure procedure was not followed.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:12 p.m. and reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

At 3:25 p.m., the meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m. on April 23, 2003.