

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON NOVEMBER 28, 2003,
COMMENCING AT 9:35 A.M.**

PRESENT

BRENDA HERDER
MICHELE MULDER (joined the meeting at 11:18 a.m.)
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
CHERYL SMITH
WAYNE THRONDSO
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
TIM CHAMBERLIN, Communications Officer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

The auditors, Greg Wood and Diane Scarisbrick, and Finance Manager, Imogene Walsh, joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:38 a.m.)

#283/03 W. THRONDSO – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, the auditors, Finance Manager Walsh, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Mr. Wood and Ms Scarisbrick left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 11:33 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:33 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING/MAINTENANCE RESERVE

#284/03 W. THRONDSO – That the Board creates an administrative reserve with the funds to be earmarked for major maintenance requirements and/or capital improvements to the Division Office building, and further that the sum of \$184,492 from Board and system administration surplus be transferred to this account.

CARRIED

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#285/03 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the audited financial statement as presented.

CARRIED

UPGRADING AT HAY LAKES SCHOOL

#286/03 B. SEARS – That the Board ratifies the decision made in June 2003 to allocate \$500,000 from BQRP funds to upgrade the facilities at the Hay Lakes School.

CARRIED

LETTER FROM ALBERTA LEARNING – TEACHER FROM JAPAN

Dr. Phillips reviewed with Trustees a letter received from Alberta Learning with respect to the possibility of having a teacher from Japan working within Battle River School Division #31 as part of the Alberta International Education Strategy. Two objectives of the International Education Strategy is to promote relevant global competencies such as second language skills and to promote international learning opportunities for Alberta students. The Government of Hokkaido will be sending two teachers to Alberta for three semesters from September 1, 2004 to March 31, 2006, and will cover the salary and relocation costs for these teachers. The receiving school board in Alberta is required to pay \$12,000 per year as a housing allowance. Trustees agreed by consensus to provide the housing allowance if a school in Battle River School Division #31 is interested in this, and if one of the teachers from Japan were assigned to a school in this Division.

DISBURSEMENT OF HEISLER SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT

#287/03 G. OBERG – That the funds from the Heisler School bank account be divided between Daysland and Forestburg Schools based on the number of former Heisler students that transferred to those schools as of September 30, 2003.

CARRIED

ATA LIAISON MEETING

The ATA/Board of Trustees Liaison meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2003. Possible agenda items were discussed.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

UPDATE ON CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Chairman Poyser noted that a good meeting was held at Daysland on November 24, 2003 with respect to the Board-initiated consultative process in the Division this year, and read a letter she received from Mayor Mayer from the City of Camrose with respect to the taxation recommendation contained in the report from the Learning Commission. Ms Poyser further noted that a media release on the meeting is being prepared.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Sears previously provided a written report with respect to his attendance at a meeting of the School Bus Safety Committee. He noted that he has been asked to serve on a committee with respect to red light safety.

Vice-Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at the Children's Advocacy meeting on October 17, 2003.

Chairman Poyser reported on the meeting of the Board Chairs that took place immediately following the ASBA Fall General meeting. Further discussions will take place to facilitate ASBA discussions with other education partners.

Several Trustees attended the presentation on the report from the Learning Commission held at Camrose Composite High School on November 5, 2003.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiating Committee

The Negotiating Committee met with the ATA on November 25, 2003, exchanged proposals and agreed to further meetings in January 2004.

Small Schools Committee

The Small Schools Committee met on November 5, 2003 and reviewed the surveys from the School Councils and administrators. From this meeting, the Committee members decided to visit alternative programs in Edmonton and Leduc on November 27, 2003.

Capital Planning Committee

Trustee Sears reported that the crawl space at Charlie Killam School has been cleared of asbestos, which enables the modernization work to continue.

Amended via motion #28/039 to read:

“Trustee Sears reported that the entry areas to the crawl space of Charlie Killam School have been cleared of all asbestos related materials. The actual crawl space has been covered with an impermeable membrane so that special equipment is required for access.”

ASBA Zone 4

Trustee Oberg reported on his attendance at the ASBA Zone 4 meeting on November 24, 2003 in Ponoka.

Drug Response Task Force

Trustees were informed that the launch of the handbook compiled by the Drug Response Task Force was delayed, however a professional development day for front line workers was held on November 25, 2003.

French Immersion Committee

The French Immersion Committee members met with interested parents on November 19, 2003.

MEETING ADJOURNED

All items of business being complete, and there being no dissent, Chairman Poyser declared the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

GWENDA POYSER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER