

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON MARCH 27, 2003,
COMMENCING AT 9:04 A.M.**

PRESENT

JUDY FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON
BRENDA HERDER (left at 3:00 p.m.)
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
WAYNE THRONDSO (arrived at 9:59 a.m.)
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

MICHELE MULDER
BILL SEARS

ALSO PRESENT

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

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

#75/03 B. HERDER – That the items on the distributed sheet be added to the agenda, and the following item:

New Business

13. Review of Funding Framework

CARRIED

REVIEW OF DRAFT EDUCATION PLAN

Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools Smith reviewed a draft document 'Priority Areas for Improvement and Key Results' that will form a part of the Three-Year Education Plan, noting that the completed plan is to be submitted to Alberta Learning by the end of June 2003.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (10:01 a.m.)

#76/03 P. ZENIUK – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:45 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

CAMROSE AND DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVAL REQUEST

#77/03 P. ZENIUK – That the Board of Trustees provides \$2000 to the Camrose and District Music Festival in lieu of registration fees for schools within Battle River Regional Division #31.

CARRIED

HEISLER SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTATION

At 11:06 a.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed six persons from the Heisler School community and Joannie Zimmer, Principal at the Heisler School, to the meeting and invited their presentation. The spokesperson was Janice Badry, chair of the Heisler School Council.

Chairman Poyser noted that she appreciated the presentation on multi-age programming held at the Heisler School on March 20, 2003.

Ms Badry noted that a core group of people in the Heisler community believe in educating their children in their own community and that multi-age programming is seen as a viable alternative. She requested that the Board give the Heisler School an opportunity to try this type of programming and to allow this to happen for three years before a final determination is made.

Ms Zimmer informed the Trustees that the proposal before the Board today has received a lot of input from the community and parents. She noted that Heisler has the lowest crime rate in the area and has a population of approximately 200. The school enjoys a tremendous amount of support from the village and all the school activities are well attended by the community. Children are also active in the community, as well as school-based sports and activities. The proposal focuses on what children need to learn and that the program would work to maintain and improve the level of performance on the Provincial Achievement Test, as well as in the non-academic areas. The school maintains formal and informal communication with parents on student progress and proudly displays students work at the school. The school continues to maintain a high level of parental attendance and village representation at School

Council meetings. Informal surveys are done to determine satisfaction with the school. Parents are also informed through the school newsletter and school website. Parents desire to continue to provide learning opportunities for students and to maximize their potential, thus the multi-age program proposal for the Heisler School for the 2003-04 school year.

Ms Zimmer distributed and presented a budget, staffing proposal, timetables, usage of the school plant itself, and additional options to be considered based on a projected enrolment of 31 students for next year. One further option requested would be for the Board to permit open busing to facilitate all students who wish to access a multi-age program.

Ms Badry noted that there will be 6 students in ECS for the 2003-04 school year, 6 students in ECS for the 2004-05 school year, and 4 the following year.

Ms Val Volk, parent, spoke to her acceptance of the multi-age program and provided Trustees with a list of assistance that the school community is prepared to do to assist, and be involved, with this programming. These include:

- Giving whole-class presentations, e.g. CAP (Classroom Agriculture Program)
- Qualified volunteers will assist in teaching ongoing classes like music, art, dance or languages
- Help tutor individual students
- Seniors in the community have volunteered to help with reading to the children and the Reading Buddy Program
- Will continue with the hot lunch program and hotdog Fridays
- Will help ease teacher time with noon hour supervision and coaching team sports
- Will provide behind-the-scenes support with activities such as preparing materials, fundraising, office reception, and working in the library.

Janice Badry (a parent, not the chair of the School Council) also spoke as a supporter of the multi-age program and noted that she spoke for other parents as well. She likes the idea of a small classroom where children have the opportunity to receive more one-on-one teaching instructions and extra help if needed, and where the children have the opportunity to become independent learners. She looks forward to being more actively involved in her children's education by conferencing and working with the teachers, by volunteering to perform tasks such as helping in the office with phones and photocopying, supervision, reading, driving, helping with display boards or any other task that would support the teaching staff. Ms Badry asked the Board to give this program a chance.

Chairman Poyser thanked the delegation for an excellent presentation and noted that she appreciated the spirit with which the parents have worked with the Board.

The delegation left the meeting at 11:45 am.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE - #4541-02

#78/03 P. ZENIUK – That the Board approves an additional three days leave of absence for #4541-02.

CARRIED

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MEETINGS

Chairman Poyser reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Viking School Travel Club and parents with respect to their planned trip to Costa Rica during the spring break. Parents were comfortable with their children's participation in this venture.

Vice-Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Daysland School Travel Club with respect to their planned trip to Italy during the spring break. Concerns with the trip occurring at this time were outlined, and contingency plans, travel policy and insurance matters were reviewed. The majority of parents present were prepared to have their children take this trip, however there were some who expressed their concern about the fact that Battle River Regional Division #31 insurers will not provide insurance for acts of terrorism or war. Appreciation was expressed that the Board did not make a unilateral decision with respect to out-of-country travel.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE - #4703-02

#79/03 W. THONRDSON – That the Board denies the request by #4703-02 for additional leave of absence.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

PRESENTATION – INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES, BASHAW SCHOOL

At 1:26 p.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed Dennis Dunlop, Principal at the Bashaw School, and Jackie Northey to the meeting and invited their presentation.

Mr. Dunlop spoke about the Family Wellness Worker Program (FWW) currently in place at the Bashaw School and noted that this program may be in jeopardy with the regional health boundary changes. At the time of the implementation of this program, Bashaw was part of a different health region. Mr. Dunlop spoke about the successes in the Bashaw School and outlined a proposal to keep the FWW program in the school. This would involve some funding from Battle River Regional Division #31 as well as from a number of other agencies providing children's services.

- #80/03 B. HERDER – That the Board accepts the proposal for a Family Wellness Worker Program at the Bashaw School as information, and further that the request for \$6000 to continue the program at the School be referred to the Budget Committee.

CARRIED

The delegation left the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

REVIEW OF FUNDING FRAMEWORK

- #81/03 B. HERDER – That the Board sends a letter to the Minister of Learning in response to the draft funding framework document.

CARRIED

TRAFFIC STUDY – CHARLIE KILLAM AND SIFTON SCHOOLS

- #82/03 W. THRONDSOON – That the Board approves the expenditure of \$8200 for a traffic study at the Charlie Killam and Sifton Schools.

CARRIED

LETTER TO CITY OF CAMROSE RE FLASHING RED LIGHT BY-LAW #1507

Trustees received a copy of a letter sent to the City of Camrose in support of its by-law prohibiting the use of alternating flashing red lights and stop arms on school buses within the City of Camrose.

MOTION TO RESCIND MOTION #42/03

- #83/03 W. THRONDSOON - That the Board rescinds defeated motion #42/03, which states "That, notwithstanding policy IC 'Attendance Areas/Transportation' the Board allows students #4712-03, resident in the Strome School attendance area, to access the bus transporting high school students to Daysland School."

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION APPEAL #4712-03

- #84/03 W. THRONDSOON – That, with new information provided and for the balance of the 2002-03 school year, students #4712-03 be permitted to access the Daysland high school bus from Strome.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (2:34 p.m.)

- #85/03 G. OBERG – That the regular meeting recesses to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, Communications Officer Chamberlin and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 3:07 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 3:07 p.m.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT

#86/03 W. THRONDSOON – That the Board accepts the one-time capital equipment allocations as amended.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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

GWENDA POYSER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER