

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2001,  
COMMENCING AT 9:40 A.M.**

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**PRESENT**

LORNE ENRIGHT

MICHELE MULDER

GWENDA POYSER (left the meeting at 10:26 a.m. and returned at 10:55 a.m.)

JACQUIE SCHAFFTER (left the meeting at 12:00 and returned at 1:25 p.m.)

BILL SEARS

WAYNE THRONDSO (left the meeting at 4:01 p.m.)

**ABSENT**

GERRY OBERG

ROXANE WOLOSHYN

**ALSO PRESENT**

WARREN PHILLIPS, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools

WILLIAM SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer

SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

**M. MULDER IN THE CHAIR**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

#11/01 G. POYSER – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 11, 2001 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

#12/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the agenda be approved as presented with the following amendments:

**Business Arising Out of the Minutes**

5. Charlie Killam School Council Meeting

**Information**

3. Open and Caring Schools, Steve Ramsanker

**In-Camera Session**

Delete #5 – FSL Workers

CARRIED

**TERMS OF REFERENCE – BOARD COMMITTEES**

Bus Drivers Committee

#13/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the terms of reference for the Bus Drivers Committee be approved with the following addition:

“- will consult with the Superintendent of Schools, the Director of Transportation, the Secretary-Treasurer, and will act upon directions set by the Board of Trustees”

CARRIED

**REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS**

Pat Spelliscy, Director of Maintenance and Operation, joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m. and presented his report of the work completed by the maintenance department, and that of work in progress.

**PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Bill Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, informed Trustees that a parcel of land adjacent to the Allan Johnstone School is for sale. The Playground Committee at that school requested that Battle River Regional Division #31 purchase the land for the purpose of expanding the playground at the school, as the existing playground space is very limited.

Trustees directed administrative personnel to explore the possibility of acquiring that portion of the alley that runs between the school and the parcel of land for sale.

**FORESTBURG SCHOOL MODERNIZATION**

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte informed Trustees that Alberta Infrastructure has allocated a total of \$4.3 million for the modernization of the Forestburg School. Mr. Schulte noted that a site meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2001 at the Forestburg School and the Central High-Sedgewick Public School.

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Mr. Spelliscy left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

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**POLICY HGAA ‘NATIONAL ANTHEM IN SCHOOLS’**

#14/01 G. POYSER – That draft policy HGAA ‘National Anthem in Schools’ be approved as amended.

CARRIED

**DATE/TIME/PLACE FOR PUBLIC MEETING – CITY OF CAMROSE**

Trustees scheduled Monday, April 9, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at a school gymnasium in the City of Camrose for the purpose of meeting with the parents and interested community members to discuss the possible re-alignments of the schools within the City of Camrose.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (ECS) DEFICIT RESEARCH**

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported that, in order for funding to equal costs, no fewer than 16 students must be enrolled in an ECS program.

**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 10:46 a.m. and reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

**CHARLIE KILLAM SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT**

Trustees Schaffter and Thronson and Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools Phillips reported on their attendance at the School Council meeting held on February 7, 2001, at the Charlie Killam School. The following was noted:

- The meeting was a very good one, chaired by Sheilagh Ross.
- People questioned why the motion with respect to the closure of the junior high program at Sifton School was rescinded. When this was explained, the discussion focused on how to make the transition of the elementary students to Sifton School easier.
- Concern was expressed about the grade six classes going to Sifton for one year, then returning the following year for grade seven.
- The School Council decided to attempt to set up a meeting with the Sifton School Council to discuss the transition, and future School Council meetings at Charlie Killam School will have time on the agenda to focus on the transition.
- Concern was expressed by parents at the meeting with respect to small children walking on the sidewalk along the highway. Trustee Thronson suggested building a sidewalk inside the Charlie Killam School fence line for children to walk to Sifton School. Mr. Thronson also suggested that the fence between the two schools be removed.

**IN-CAMERA (11:21 a.m.)**

#15/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the regular meeting recess to allow Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Chief Deputy Superintendent of School Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 1:12 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 1:12 p.m.

**TIMED ITEM – SIFTON ECS SOCIETY (1:12 p.m.)**

Chairman Mulder welcomed Michelle Bowman and Lisa Byers from the Sifton ECS Society to the meeting and invited their presentation. Ms. Bowman presented a request on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sifton ECS Society for that ECS program to be assumed by the Board of Trustees of Battle River Regional Division #31. Ms. Bowman noted that the parents of prospective students for next year at the Sifton ECS were invited to a meeting to discuss this request and the support for the proposal was unanimous. Trustee Thronson noted that the School Council at the Charlie Killam School supports a Board-run ECS at the Sifton School.

Mrs. Mulder noted that the ECS would lose a significant amount of autonomy if it should become a Board-run ECS. Ms. Bowman indicated that this was discussed at a meeting on January 29, 2001 with the parents and they are aware of this.

Mrs. Mulder also noted that discussions will be held soon with respect to the realignment of all schools in the City of Camrose, including Sifton. Trustees will be discussing specifically how Sifton School will fit into the City of Camrose school system. Mrs. Mulder informed the delegation that if the Board assumed responsibility for the Sifton ECS it could mean that in any year that the enrolment was small, the students could be directed into other ECS programs in the City of Camrose. Ms. Bowman responded that the parents are aware of that, however they would foresee better things being available by being Board run.

At 1:25 p.m. Gail Reed joined the delegation.

Trustee Thronson questioned the delegation with respect to the possibility of capital expenditures that would be needed if the current facility were to remain as the ECS Centre for a while. Ms. Bowman responded that the Sifton ECS Society would like to see the portable moved next to the school and to be connected to the school.

The delegation left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

- #16/01 W. THRONSON – That, effective with the start of the 2001-02 school year and pending final approval by the Board of the Sifton ECS Society, the Board of Trustees offer a Board-run ECS program to the students in the Sifton School attendance area, and further that the Board investigate the possibility of incorporating the ECS class within the Sifton School.

CARRIED

**REVIEW OF THE ACCOUNTS**

- #17/01 L. ENRIGHT – That payment of the accounts for the month of January, 2001 be ratified.

CARRIED

**CASE #4701-01**

#18/01 G. POYSER – That, with respect to Case #4701-01, the Board of Trustees support the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.  
CARRIED

**COMPASSIONATE LEAVE**

#19/01 B. SEARS – That, with respect to Case #4703-01, the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools.  
CARRIED

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVE**

#20/01 L. ENRIGHT – That, with respect to Case #4541-01, the Board of Trustees receive as information the request for a professional development leave, and further that the matter be referred to a committee as outlined in the Collective Agreement.  
CARRIED

**ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA), CATHOLIC 4X4 ISSUE**

#21/01 G. POYSER – Be it resolved that the Minister of Learning, after first satisfying himself regarding any constitutional questions, introduce the necessary legislation and regulations to implement the recommendations of the Alberta School Boards Association 4x4 Outcomes Report, specifically:

1. Alternative to the current 4x4 process (pages 8, 9, and 10)
  - a. Route A
  - b. Route B
2. Consultation Protocol (pages 11 and 12)
3. Binding Dispute Settlement Mechanism (pages 13 to 16)
4. Transition Funding (page 16)

DEFEATED

**SIFTON ECS SOCIETY DELEGATION (1:57 p.m.)**

The delegation, with the addition of a few more persons, from the Sifton ECS Society were invited to return to the Board room to ask Trustees further questions.

Question – What would happen with busing the Sifton ECS students if, in a year of smaller enrolments, the students were directed elsewhere? Mrs. Mulder replied that would be taken into consideration when determining where the children would attend.

Question – Would the program be a full-day program? The response was that the program would be a full-day program with students attending two days one week and three days the next week throughout the ECS year.

Question – What would be the possibility of moving children to other centers? There are many factors involved in determining this, however the number of students might be the determining factor, i.e. less than 15 students. This would be a concern only if there were 15 students or less over the long term.

Question – What about students who are currently registered for the 2001-02 school year? Dr. Phillips responded that it is likely that with a Board-run full-day program there will be enough students to run the program at Sifton School next year, and perhaps in this transition year the program could run with fewer students.

The delegation left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

**TIMED ITEM – CHARLIE KILLAM BREAKFAST COMMITTEE (2:12 p.m.)**

Chairman Mulder welcomed Ken Flater, Barry Stotz, Jim Rubuliak, and Anita Eggink to the meeting and invited their presentation. Each person in the delegation provided information with respect to the Breakfast Program at the Charlie Killam School, noting that the program ran as a pilot project in June 2000 with success and continued for the 2000-2001 school year. The program is available to all students at the school and has been approved by the public health inspector to ensure food safety.

The delegation requested approval in principle to have representation from the school division at future planning sessions, which could lead to an expanded breakfast program at other schools within the City of Camrose.

Mrs. Mulder applauded the work undertaken by the partnership on behalf of the students of Charlie Killam School, and indicated that some time would be needed to discuss this with administrative personnel.

**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 2:36 p.m. and reconvened at 2:42 p.m.

**LAND TITLE NW 19-46-16 W4**

Catherine Jensen, Business Manager, joined the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Ms. Jensen informed Trustees that the buyer of a one-acre parcel of land at NW 19-46-16 W4 was not prepared to pay the legal costs associated with the transfer of this piece of property. Trustees determined that this offer was then void and directed Ms. Jensen to request from the Minister a return transfer of this property to the Flagstaff County.

Mrs. Jensen left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

**PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES**

Mr. Dolynny, Superintendent of Schools, noted at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 23, 2000, that the Minister of Science and Innovation announced a provincial initiative of providing fibre-optics installation to small communities throughout the province. Dr. Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools, provided information to the Board with respect to the possibility of Battle River Regional Division #31 providing internet service to small communities, rather than the province or its provider, as Battle River Regional Division #31 already has high-speed internet service in small communities through our schools. Battle River Regional Division #31 would apply to Alberta Infrastructure for re-imburement for this provision. Battle River Regional Division #31 would provide service to these communities and receive the monthly Internet fees.

Concern was expressed that the technology staff at Battle River Regional Division #31 is already very busy and perhaps would be expected to provide technology service to the communities for which Battle River Regional Division #31 was providing Internet services. It was noted that if problems occurred, it would likely be with the tower. It might also place extra work strain on the accounting department.

The suggestion was made that perhaps Battle River Regional Division #31 could subcontract the infrastructure (towers) to the provider who would then take care of any necessary technical support and accounting.

The question was raised as to why towns would opt for towers when fibre-optics would be available.

Trustees suggested that administrative personnel check with the province to determine the feasibility of providing this service to small communities.

**DRAFT POLICY GBK/IFCG ‘SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT’**

#22/01 G. POYSER – That the Board approve, in principle, draft policy GBK/IFCG ‘Smoke-Free Environment’ with amendments, and further that the draft policy be circulated to employees and school councils for response.

CARRIED

**DAY LABOR, MODERNIZATION OF CENTRAL HIGH-SEDGEWICK PUBLIC SCHOOL**

#23/01 L. ENRIGHT – That the Board make application to Alberta Infrastructure to employ day labor for the modernization of the elementary section of the Central High-Sedgewick Public School.

CARRIED

**YOUTHSAFE OUTDOORS INITIATIVE**

Trustees received information with respect to the YouthSafe Outdoors Initiative, which is an initiative funded by the federal government’s Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund, Alberta Disaster services, and the

Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research. They requested \$60,000 for a project that would see the development and distribution of safety and risk management support resources to those involved in delivering outdoor pursuits in schools in Alberta. These resources will be provided to administrations and schools, at no cost to the recipients.

- #24/01 L. ENRIGHT – That the Board support the YouthSafe Outdoors Initiative by contributing \$1,000 through the Alberta School Boards Association.

CARRIED

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS – VIABILITY STUDY**

Trustees were informed that the Facilities Viability Study has been released to the school principals during the week of February 5-9, 2001 and will be released to the school council chairpersons on February 12, 2001. A press release will be faxed to local newspapers on February 13, 2001.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) – Mentorship Program

Trustees reviewed a letter from the ATA with respect to establishing a mentorship program for beginning teachers. It was noted that Battle River Regional Division #31 has established a mentorship program.

#### Telling Stories Out of School

Trustees were informed that the winners in the elementary section of the 'Telling Stories Out of School' contest have been chosen and their stories will be released to the press as soon as parental consent has been obtained. Over 900 entries were received from the elementary grades for this contest.

- #25/01 B. SEARS – That a letter of appreciation be sent to Glenna Ramsay, Communications Officer, ATA Local, for the many hours of work she put into the 'Telling Stories Out of School' contest.

CARRIED

#### Dr. Steve Ramsanker Presentation

Trustee Sears informed the Board that Dr. Steve Ramsanker is available to speak to groups about open and caring schools. Trustees indicated that perhaps he could be invited to a Board meeting in May or June.



**TERMS OF REFERENCE – BOARD COMMITTEES**

#26/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the Board approve the terms of reference for the Negotiating Committee for the Alberta Teachers' Association (Local); the Divisional Office and School-Based Support Staff Committee; the Custodian Committee; and the Student Affairs Committee, as presented.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Negotiating Committee – ATA (Local)

The Negotiating Committee for the ATA Local was notified of an ASBA Labor Relations meeting scheduled for February 27, 2001 in Lacombe.

Capital Plan Committee Update

The members of the Capital Plan Committee will be meeting with the architect on February 14, 2001 with respect to the Forestburg and Central High-Sedgewick Public Schools modernizations.

Communications/Public Relations Committee Update

Trustee Poyser updated Trustees with respect to a meeting of the Advocacy Council of the Communications/Public Relations Committee, held on February 7, 2001, and noted that a summary of concerns from that meeting will be sent to the MLAs representing Battle River Regional Division #31.

Trustee Poyser also informed Trustees with respect to the ASBA Election Strategy document that will enable Trustees, school staffs, and parents to present informed questions to their candidates in the upcoming provincial election.

#27/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the Board endorse the ASBA Election Strategy document, and further that administrative personnel prepare a document from this supporting Battle River Regional Division #31 statistics.

CARRIED

ASBA Reports and Information

Chairman Mulder will e-mail her report as the ASBA Vice-President to each of the Trustees.

Central Alberta Regional Consortium (CARC)

Chairman Mulder reported on her attendance at the January meeting of the CARC and noted that she is no longer the trustee representative at the consortium.

Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP)

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte distributed copies of his written report with respect to his service on the ASEBP Board of Directors.

Ribstone Child and Family Services

Trustee Schaffter reported that the official opening of the Ribstone Child and Family Services building has been rescheduled to May 25, 2001. Ms. Schaffter noted that the terms of the Board members of the Ribstone Child and Family Services have been extended until September 2001.

ATA Liaison Committee

The next meeting of the ATA Liaison Committee is scheduled for February 20, 2001.

**IN-CAMERA SESSION (4:45 p.m.)**

#28/01 G. POYSER – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Chief Deputy Superintendent Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 4:48 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 4:48 p.m.

**KUDOS**

Trustees expressed appreciation to Bill Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, for the tremendous amount of work he did in photocopying and inserting the Facility Viability Study into binders for presentation to the Trustees and School Councils.

**ADJOURNMENT**

All items of business being completed and there being no dissent, Chairman Mulder declared the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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MICHELE MULDER, CHAIRMAN

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WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER