

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2001,
COMMENCING AT 9:36 A.M.**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

WAYNE THRONDSO

ALSO PRESENT

PAUL DOLYNNY, Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

Chairman Poyser welcomed Tim Chamberlin, Communications Officer, to the meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chairman Poyser expressed condolences to Secretary-Treasurer Bill Schulte on the death of his sister.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#193/01 P. ZENIUK – That the agenda be approved with the addition of the items noted on the distributed copies of the add-on sheet.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#194/01 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 11, 2001 and the organizational meeting held on October 25, 2001 be approved with the following amendments:

Motion #176/01 – “...up to but not exceeding One Million Dollars (**\$1,000,000.00**) which”

Page 141 – it should be noted that Tim Chamberlin left the meeting at **11:20 a.m.**

CARRIED

NATIONAL CONGRESS ON RURAL EDUCATION

#195/01 M. MULDER – That the Board supports attendance at the National Congress on Rural Education in Saskatoon, SK on March 10-12, 2001, for two school council representatives that sit on the Small Schools Committee of Battle River Regional Division #31 and one trustee.

#196/01 B. SEARS – That motion #195/01 be amended to read “That the Board supports attendance at the National Congress on Rural Education in Saskatoon, SK on March 10-12, 2001, for one school council representative that sits on the Small Schools Committee of Battle River Regional Division #31, one school council representative from the general school councils population in Battle River Regional Division #31, and one trustee.

DEFEATED

#195/01 M. MULDER – That the Board supports attendance at the National Congress on Rural Education in Saskatoon, SK on March 10-12, 2001, for two school council representatives that sit on the Small Schools Committee of Battle River Regional Division #31 and one trustee.

CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Director of Maintenance and Operations Pat Spelliscy joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m. to provide an update to Trustees with respect to the work undertaken by the Maintenance Department during the past month.

Mr. Spelliscy left the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

TERMS OF REFERENCE – COMMITTEES

Small Schools Committee

#197/01 M. MULDER – That the Board endorses the terms of reference for the Small Schools Committee as discussed with suggested additions, and further that these terms of reference be attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

CARRIED

SCHOOL PROGRAMS WITH CRITICAL MINIMUM ENROLMENT NUMBERS

It was noted that the school programs having critical minimum enrolments were identified at the October 11, 2001 meeting. Superintendent of Schools Dolynny suggested that the Principals of the identified schools and the School Council chairpersons be invited to attend the meeting on November 22, 2001 to discuss with Trustees their intent for those programs for the 2002-03 school year.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:29 a.m. and reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

At 10:39 a.m., Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, joined the meeting.

BALLOT AUTHORIZATION AND ENTITLEMENT – ASBA FALL GENERAL MEETING

Trustees were notified via a letter received from ASBA that, in order to expedite the ballot authorization process for the ASBA Fall General Meeting, the board chairs will be authorized as the individual responsible for pick up of the board ballots, unless the Board chose otherwise. The Board listing of ballot entitlements was provided and will be assembled in denominations based on the distribution at the ASBA Spring General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEES – ALBERTA HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

#198/01 B. SEARS – That, for the 2001-02 school year, the Board continues to support the payment of membership fees for School Councils wishing to join the Alberta Home and School Councils Association.

CARRIED

HEISLER SCHOOL AND SCHOOL COUNCIL DELEGATION

At 10:46 a.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed Joannie Zimmer, Principal at the Heisler School, and Janice Badry, School Council Chair, and Joanne Zimmer to the meeting and invited their presentation with respect to the program offerings at the Heisler School for the 2002-03 school year.

The delegation prefaced the program presentation with the following concerns of the School Council:

- That students in Heisler School receive the same quality of education and have the same opportunities as other students in Battle River Regional Division #31 and the Province;
- That triple grading is not an option in core subjects as the community will not support this; and
- That the school remains open as long as possible.

Joannie Zimmer, Principal, outlined a proposed budget and timetable for the Heisler School for the 2002-03 school year, noting that the staff and the School Council at the Heisler School support the proposal presented.

The proposal was made to have community members and parents supervise at noon. This led to the question of how parental supervision at noon will affect the liability of Battle River Regional Division #31. Mr. Dolynny will investigate this and provide a response for the next meeting.

Trustees questioned the delegation with respect to how the formation of the Catholic School Districts in the Heisler community will affect the Heisler School. The delegates responded that there is strong community support for the public school, and that they are unaware how many students might leave the school.

The delegation left the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Ms. Walsh left the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRIPS – LOSS OF DEPOSIT

Discussion took place with respect to the cancellation of air travel trips. This item will be discussed later.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

OFF-CAMPUS EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

Trustees received as information the *Off-Campus Education Annual Report* prepared by Mr. Stephen Smith, Deputy Superintendent. At the meeting on November 22, 2001 Mr. Smith will respond to questions the Trustees may have with respect to the report.

MINISTER'S SYMPOSIUM ON SCHOOLS, DECEMBER 5-6, 2001

Trustee Sears will attend as the Board's representative (through the Alberta School Boards Association) at the Minister's Symposium on Schools on December 5-6, 2001.

REPRESENTATIVE ON ASBA EXTERNAL COMMITTEE

Trustees were informed that ASBA requires a representative to serve on the Joint Stakeholder Committee on Children and Poverty. Chairman Poyser asked any Trustee interested in serving on this Committee to let her know.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

DELEGATION – DOROTHY MARSHALL

At 1:38 p.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed Dorothy Marshall and Dixie Schielke to the meeting and invited their presentation. Ms. Marshall served as spokesperson.

Ms. Marshall expressed concern about the proposed amendment to Policy IC 'Transportation / Attendance Areas'. Ms. Marshall noted that the proposed amendment is a contradiction to the policy belief statement and that approving the amendment would erode attendance at small schools and jeopardizes programs for students at those schools. Ms. Marshall concluded her presentation by noting that the attendance boundaries should be left as are presently configured and that individual situations should be considered, but the policy should not be changed.

Ms. Marshall and Ms. Schielke were informed that the proposed amendment to policy IC has been approved by the Board in principle only at this time.

The delegation left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

DELEGATION – NORMA WILLIAMS

At 2:01 p.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed Norma Williams, School Council Chair at the Round Hill School, to the meeting and invited her presentation.

Ms. Williams noted, in a letter to the Board, that the Round Hill School Council opposes the proposed amendment to policy IC 'Transportation / Attendance Areas'.

Ms. Williams questioned the Trustees with respect to how the critical minimum enrolment (CME) numbers are determined. Ms. Williams was informed that these numbers are derived from experience and determined by what the Board and administrative personnel feel can best provide a viable program for students in those particular grades. The CME numbers indicate that perhaps a different approach is needed to present the programs identified and initiates discussion with school councils and school administrators with respect to how education will be presented in the low enrolment programs.

Chairman Poyser informed Ms. Williams that the proposed amendment to policy IC 'Transportation / Attendance Areas' is not an attempt to hasten the closure of a school that has reached critical minimum enrolment numbers.

Ms. Williams questioned Trustees with respect to the procedure to initiate discussion with respect to the request by the Round Hill School Council to

change (enlarge) the attendance boundaries of the Round Hill School. Ms. Williams will do further research and may present a proposal for boundary changes for Board consideration at a future date.

Ms. Williams was assured that the proposed amendment to policy IC has been approved by the Board in principle only at this time.

Ms. Williams left the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:19 p.m. and reconvened at 2:31 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (2:35 p.m.)

#199/01 M. MULDER – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Dolynny, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 4:01 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 4:01 p.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

#200/01 B. HERDER – That the Board ratifies payment of the accounts for October, 2001.

CARRIED

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

#201/01 M. MULDER – That the Board strikes an ad hoc committee for the purpose of continuing discussions with the Cornerstone Christian School, and further that this Committee be comprised of two Trustees, the Board Chairman, and the Superintendent of Schools.

CARRIED

Trustees Sears and Zeniuk volunteered to serve on this Committee.

INFORMATION ITEMS (continued)

Forestburg School Modernization

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny informed the Trustees that their request for addition funding for the over-budget tenders for modernization of the Forestburg School has been rejected by Alberta Infrastructure, therefore the project will now have to go to tender again as this results in a different project design.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met with the Superintendent of Schools on November 5, 2001.

ASBA Reports and Information

Trustee Herder noted that she had distributed her written report from the ASBA Zone 4 meeting, and informed the Trustees that the next Zone 4 meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2001 in Wetaskiwin.

Administrators' Meeting

Trustees were informed that the next Administrators' Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2001.

Small Schools Committee

The Small Schools Committee is scheduled to meet on November 15, 2001.

CAMROSE COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL REVIEW

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny informed Trustees that the review of the Camrose Composite High School, scheduled for last spring, will begin the week of November 26, 2001. Jim Clarke, Principal at the Tofield School; James Maher, Principal at the Ryley School; Paul Dolynny, Superintendent of Schools; Warren Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Stephen Smith, Deputy Superintendent; Ray Bosh, Associate Superintendent; and Jim Rubuliak, Division Principal, will participate in the review.

MEETING RECESS

At 4:44 p.m., Chairman Poyser recessed the meeting until 9:30 a.m. on November 22, 2001.

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