

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2001,
COMMENCING AT 9:33 A.M.**

PRESENT

LORNE ENRIGHT (joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.)
MICHELE MULDER (left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.)
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
JACQUIE SCHAFFTER
BILL SEARS
WAYNE THRONDSO
ROXANE WOLOSHYN (joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.)

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

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

M. MULDER IN THE CHAIR

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#162/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the agenda be approved with the distributed add-on sheet and the following item:

New Business

9. Smoke-Free Environment Policy

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#163/01 G. POYSER – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 13 and 27, 2001 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

SCHOOL COUNCILS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The meeting with the School Councils / Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Daysland Hall.

SCHOOL COUNCILS ORIENTATION SEMINAR

The School Councils Orientation Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Daysland Hall. Trustees, the executive of the School Councils and the school administrators are invited to attend this seminar.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRIPS AND ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA TRIPS – LOSS OF DEPOSIT

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny reported that the Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that air travel should be done only if necessary. EF Tours is not willing to accept full refund cancellations based on the above-noted recommendation and are offering options. These options will be outlined in a memo to the various Travel Clubs in Battle River Regional Division #31.

Encounters with Canada

#164/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the Board of Trustees refunds any nonrefundable deposit to students who were scheduled to participate in Encounters with Canada and who will now not be attending because of the Board ban on air travel.

CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Director of Transportation, Brenda Johnson joined the meeting at 9:47 a.m. to present her report.

Proposed Amendment to Policy EEAD(4)

#165/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the Board of Trustees approves the proposed addition amendment to #6, Procedures/Guidelines of policy EEAD(4), which states “Pre-school children of adult and teacher supervisors will not be permitted to accompany the group.”

CARRIED

#166/01 L. ENRIGHT – That the Board of Trustees approves the proposed addition of #9, Procedures/Guidelines of policy EEAD(4), which states “Drivers for field trips will be paid for a minimum of 2 hours and are permitted to claim for 15 minutes prior to departure for a pre-trip inspection as well as 15 minutes after the trip for a post-trip inspection.”

CARRIED

Meeting with Contract Bus Operators

Ms. Johnson will schedule a meeting date with the Contract Bus Operators following the Board’s organizational meeting.

Information Items

Ms. Johnson reviewed the information items as noted on the distributed copies of her report.

Ms. Johnson left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

ASBA LABOR RELATIONS CONTINGENCY PLANNING 2001 CONFERENCE

Two administrators and two trustees will be registered for the ASBA Labor Relations Contingency Planning 2001 Conference on October 29, 2001 in Edmonton.

INFORMATION ITEMS

National Congress on Rural Education

The information with respect to the National Congress on Rural Education will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Board.

FUNDRAISING AND ALCOHOL

Catherine Jensen, Business Manager, joined the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Ms. Jensen reported that one parent advisory council is asking for a liquor license in connection with fund raising activities. Advice from the insurers of Battle River Regional Division #31 was sought. The insurers noted that if the fund raising is done in a casino, the casino would assume most of the liability, however the parent advisory council could be named as part of the liability. In any other situation where the parent advisory council organizes a fundraiser and serves alcohol, the group would be responsible for monitoring the consumption of the alcohol and the parent advisory group and the school board will be held accountable if an incident were to occur as a result of alcohol consumption. The insurers expressed strong concerns with social host liability, however the insurance would cover Battle River Regional Division #31 in such a circumstance.

A letter will be sent to school administrators, school councils and societies requesting distancing from fundraising with alcohol-related activities. It was noted that societies formed under the Societies Act would not be covered by Battle River Regional Division #31 insurance and must have adequate insurance for alcohol-related fund raisers.

APPOINTMENT – SUSAN AND MORRIS NIEHAUS (10:37 a.m.)

Chairman Mulder welcomed Susan and Morris Niehaus and their children to the meeting and invited their presentation.

Mr. and Mrs. Niehaus noted that they had been driving their daughter six miles to meet a bus so she could attend the Daysland School for kindergarten. This was supported by some in the community. This year driving to meet the bus was not an option and their daughter attends

Heisler School. Mr. and Mrs. Niehaus noted that the teachers are great and the school is friendly and inviting. They have, however, noted that the school does not have enough students to support it. They further noted that application has been made to establish a Catholic school in Heisler. How will this affect the current school in Heisler? If the school closes, will the students be bused to a school of their choice? Mr. and Mrs. Niehaus are seeking information now as they would like to begin an integration process with the new school through community activities. Where would their daughter attend school and would busing be provided?

Chairman Mulder noted that no child is considered a number, however the Trustees do have to think about funding. Mrs. Mulder further noted that at this point, the programs at the Heisler School have been sustainable with the funding the School has. Mrs. Mulder confirmed that there is a movement to establish a Catholic school in Heisler, and is uncertain how this will affect the Heisler School.

With respect to busing to another school, Mrs. Mulder indicated that would have to be determined only at such time as a decision must be made on whether the programs at the Heisler School are sustainable. This would then have to be done in accordance with policy FL.

Mr. and Mrs. Niehaus questioned the Board and received response to numerous questions they had with respect to the Heisler School, and noted that they feel that both Heisler and Daysland Schools are good schools and could support attendance at either School for their children.

Mr. and Mrs. Niehaus left the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

APPOINTMENT – DEBBIE AND ANGELA CAMERON (11:02 a.m.)

Chairman Mulder welcomed Debbie and Angela Cameron to the meeting and invited their presentation.

Director of Transportation, Brenda Johnson, joined the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Mrs. Cameron, resident in the Lougheed School attendance area, requested gate service for busing of her daughter, Angela, to CH-SPS.

Debbie and Angela Cameron left the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:16 a.m. and reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

APPOINTMENT – LORI ZIMMER AND BLAIR KROETCH (11:22 a.m.)

Chairman Mulder welcomed Lori Zimmer and Blair Kroetch to the meeting and invited their presentation.

Ms. Zimmer served as spokesperson and noted that when the Trustees met with community members in June, 2001, they noted that the Board had adhered as strictly as possible to the transportation policy. Since that time, several parents requested and received busing out of the Heisler School attendance area. Ms. Zimmer questioned why some people who have requested busing out of their attendance area are refused and some, over the summer, get permission.

Chairman Mulder responded that the Board heard presentations from persons who had moved into the Heisler School attendance area and requested continuation of their children at their previous school. Following discussion, the Board approved a number of 'notwithstanding' motions allowing these students busing outside the terms of the policy. The Board subsequently determined that the policy should be reviewed when motions are being made in a 'notwithstanding' manner or outside of policy. This then led to the proposed amendment to the transportation policy.

Ms. Mulder noted that the policy has not yet been changed. The amendment was approved in principle and has been circulated for input from school councils, staffs and administrators.

Ms. Zimmer noted that the policy is there to protect the small schools, however it seems that people moving in have been granted special permission. With the policy as is, people would give the small school a try.

Ms. Zimmer requested some clarification on the proposed amendment. Ms. Mulder indicated that it would apply only to schools that have been identified as having reached a critical minimum enrolment as identified by the Superintendent of Schools and presented to the Board in accordance with Policy FL 'School/Program Closure'.

Ms. Mulder noted that all policies need to be reviewed periodically as circumstances change from the time the policy was approved.

Ms. Zimmer and Mr. Kroetch left the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Ms. Johnson left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (11:45 a.m.)

#167/01 R. WOLOSHYN – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 11:58 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:58 a.m.

CHAIRMAN'S WORDS TO THE TRUSTEES

As this was the last meeting before the school board elections, Chairman Mulder took the opportunity to thank the Trustees for their support, dedication and work over the last three years. The Board had faced some tough issues during the three years, but through informed and respectful debate, those issues were met and resolved while keeping the integrity of the Board and good relationships among all Trustees intact. She especially thanked the contributions made by Trustees Jacquie Schaffter, Roxane Woloshyn and Lorne Enright, who have chosen to retire from trusteeship, and wished them all the best in their next endeavors.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:01 p.m. at which time Ms. Mulder vacated the chair. The regular meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m. at which time Vice-Chairman Poyser assumed the chair.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (1:05 p.m.)

#168/01 W. THRONDSOON – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 2:30 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

#169/01 R. WOLOSHYN – That the payment of the accounts for the month of September, 2001 be ratified.

CARRIED

STUDENT ENROLMENT REPORTS

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny informed Trustees that the following schools/programs are at, or fall below, the critical minimum enrolment as noted in policy FL 'School/Program Closures':

The elementary program at the Alliance School;
The senior high program at the Bashaw School;
The junior high program at the Edberg School;
The elementary and junior high programs at the Heisler School; and
The junior high program at the Strome School.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST – JUNE MEISNER

#170/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That, notwithstanding policy IC 'Attendance Areas/Transportation' the Board allows the children of Andrew and June Meisner, resident in the Heisler School attendance area, to access the bus transporting high school students to the Daysland School.

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST – DEBBIE CAMERON

The transportation request by Debbie Cameron in her presentation to the Board at this meeting was referred to the Superintendent of Schools.

EVALUATION – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

#171/01 B. SEARS – That the Board of Trustees accepts the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the evaluation shows an excellent recommendation, and further that the Board expresses its pleasure with the leadership provided by the Superintendent of Schools.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiating Committee

The next meeting of the Negotiating Committee with the ATA Local is scheduled for December 14 and/or 17, 2001, pending confirmation.

Capital Plan

Trustees Oberg and Poyser, Superintendent of Schools Dolynny, and Secretary-Treasurer Schulte met with Mr. Robert (Butch) Fischer, MLA. Trustees subsequently received information that Mr. Fischer had contacted the Minister of Infrastructure on behalf of Battle River Regional Division #31.

Trustees Thronson and Schaffter, Superintendent of Schools Dolynny, and Secretary-Treasurer Schulte met with Mr. LeRoy Johnson, MLA and Mr. Norm Mayer, Mayor of the City of Camrose with respect to the Capital Plan.

TRUSTEES ORIENTATION SESSION

The Trustees Orientation Session is scheduled for October 18, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

The Small Schools Committee will meet with Dr. Leroy Sloan, on October 18, 2001 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS ORIENTATION SESSION

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny invited Trustees to join the new administrators for lunch at their orientation session scheduled for October 23, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Vice-Chairman Poyser adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

MICHELE MULDER, CHAIRMAN

GWENDA POYSER, VICE-CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.....	127
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.....	127
SCHOOL COUNCILS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING	127
SCHOOL COUNCILS ORIENTATION SEMINAR.....	128
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRIPS AND ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA TRIPS – LOSS OF DEPOSIT	128
ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA.....	128
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT	128
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLICY EEAD(4)	128
MEETING WITH CONTRACT BUS OPERATORS.....	128
INFORMATION ITEMS	129
ASBA LABOR RELATIONS CONTINGENCY PLANNING 2001 CONFERENCE.....	129
INFORMATION ITEMS.....	129
NATIONAL CONGRESS ON RURAL EDUCATION	129
FUNDRAISING AND ALCOHOL	129
APPOINTMENT – SUSAN AND MORRIS NIEHAUS (10:37 A.M.).....	129
APPOINTMENT – DEBBIE AND ANGELA CAMERON (11:02 A.M.).....	130
APPOINTMENT – LORI ZIMMER AND BLAIR KROETCH (11:22 A.M.).....	131
CHAIRMAN’S WORDS TO THE TRUSTEES	132
RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.....	132
STUDENT ENROLMENT REPORTS	133
TRANSPORTATION REQUEST – JUNE MEISNER.....	133
TRANSPORTATION REQUEST – DEBBIE CAMERON	133
EVALUATION – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.....	133
COMMITTEE REPORTS.....	133
NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE.....	133
CAPITAL PLAN	133
TRUSTEES ORIENTATION SESSION.....	134
SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE	134
NEW ADMINISTRATORS ORIENTATION SESSION.....	134