

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2007, COMMENCING AT 9:34 A.M.**

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**PRESENT**

REBECCA HEIBERG  
GERRY OBERG  
KEN OFFORD  
VICTOR PETRUK  
CHERYL SMITH  
HAMEED SYED  
PATRICIA ZENIUK

**ABSENT**

**ALSO PRESENT**

LARRY PAYNE, Superintendent of Schools  
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent  
IMOGENE WALSH, Finance Manager  
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Officer  
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

**C. SMITH IN THE CHAIR**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m., noting that Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, was serving as a proxy for Bill Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, who is away at an Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP) Conference.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM**

At 9:35 a.m., Chairman Smith welcomed Maureen Parker to the meeting. Dr. Payne introduced Ms Parker as the new Director of Curriculum for Battle River School Division #31. Trustees introduced themselves and Ms Parker was welcomed by each one. Ms Parker left the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

#140/07 K. OFFORD – That the agenda be approved with the following change:

Item 6.1 – Contract Bus Drivers (Motion 113/07) be deferred to the September 13, 2007 Board Meeting

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- #141/07 V. PETRUK – That the minutes of the June 14 and 28, 2007 regular meeting of the Board be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:41 A.M.)**

- #142/07 P. ZENIUK – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Payne, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Finance Manager Walsh, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:08 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:08 a.m.

**REMEMBRANCE AND BOXING DAYS**

- #143/07 H. SYED – That the Board approves the granting of a day-in-lieu for Remembrance Day when it falls on the weekend to the following groups: division office staff, maintenance staff, bus mechanics, school secretaries, librarians, educational assistants and bus drivers.

CARRIED

- #144/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board grants Boxing Day as a holiday for the school secretaries, librarians, educational assistants, and school bus drivers.

CARRIED

**CAPITAL BORROWING REGULATION**

Finance Manager Walsh reviewed the written response prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer with respect to a discussion paper on the capital borrowing resolution.

- #145/07 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the responses to the Capital Borrowing Regulation as discussed, and further that this be attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

CARRIED

**ASBA SPECIAL MEETING**

Trustees received notification of a special meeting scheduled for September 14, 2007 called by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), and the documents for this meeting were distributed. Trustees will review the documents and discuss the information contained therein at the next Board meeting.

**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

**ASBA PHONE SURVEY**

Trustees reviewed the questions for an upcoming telephone survey by ASBA.

**ANNUAL REPORT TO COMMUNITY**

Communications Officer Hutchinson distributed a draft copy of the annual report to the communities for Trustee review.

**ELECTION NOMINATION PACKAGES**

Ms Hutchinson distributed election nomination packages for those Trustees who plan to run in the October school board election.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE ACTION SOCIETY**

Trustees reviewed a letter from the Family Violence Action Society with respect to the upcoming “Be CHIC (Cool, Hip and in Control)” Junior High School Girls Empowerment Sleepover.

#146/07 K. OFFORD – That the Board provides \$500 to the Family Violence Action Society for the second Junior High School Girls Empowerment Sleepover event.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE FOR TRUSTEE PLANNING SESSION**

Trustees determined that the Executive Committee plus the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Planning and System Improvement serve on the committee to determine an agenda for the upcoming Trustee Planning Session on November 8 and 9, 2007.

**REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR 2010 ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES**

Following discussion, the Board determined that it would have no problem philosophically with supporting the bid by the City of Camrose for the 2010 Alberta Summer Games, however it was reluctant to commit technology and transportation personnel to the volunteer work as well as division staff hours needed to make this event successful. Consultation with these two departments will take place before a letter is written.

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES MEETING**

A meeting of the Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority is scheduled for September 14, 2007. A Board member and the Superintendent of Schools are requested to be in attendance. It was noted that this is the same date as the special meeting of the ASBA. Deputy Superintendent Bosh volunteered to attend.

**EAST CENTRAL HEALTH PARTNERING AGREEMENT**

#147/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board formally endorses the East Central Alberta Partnering Agreement.

CARRIED

**OVERVIEW OF DIVISION OFFICE SUMMER PLANNING SESSION**

Dr. Payne distributed copies of the objectives that the Division Office leadership team discussed at their annual summer planning session. Dr. Payne spoke to the discussions surrounding these objectives.

**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

**STAFFING UPDATE**

At 1:34 p.m., Don Gillies, Assistant Superintendent (Personnel) joined the meeting and provided an update with respect to staffing. Mr. Gillies left the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Deputy Superintendent Bosh updated Trustees with respect to changes in the Special Education department, noting that Mr. LaBerge has resumed the principalship at the PACE Outreach School, with Mr. Martin serving as Vice-Principal. Mr. LaBerge will continue to do some work for Special Education. Ms Nancy McLeod, Special Education Coordinator, will be the contact person for school administrators.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

In addition to the items noted below, other information items were circulated to Trustees during the Board meeting.

Administrators' Meeting

Vice-Chair Zeniuk reported on her attendance at the Administrators' Meeting held on August 22, 2007.

Confidential Shredding

Trustees were informed that the blue recycling box in the Board Room will be a place for Trustees to place confidential papers that will then be shredded after the Board meeting.

A consideration will be made to purchase individual shredders for Trustees.

Letter from the Minister of Education re Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Funding

Trustees received copies of a letter from the Minister of Education addressed to Dr. Phillips (previous Superintendent) in response to his letter outlining concerns of funding for CTS courses being channeled through a third group for dispersal to school jurisdictions.

Rural Development Initiative Proposal

The initial proposal to the Rural Development Initiative by Battle River School Division #31 was denied because capital costs were included. Another draft of the proposal was submitted without the capital costs. A response was received from the Rural Development Initiative to resubmit a full proposal. Dr. Warren Phillips, the Superintendent who submitted the proposal, will continue work on this for resubmission.

Career Transitions and Learning Together Program Funding

An announcement was received during the summer months indicating that Battle River School Division #31 was successful in obtaining funding from Employment and Immigration for the Career Transitions Outreach positions (3 year commitment) and the Learning Together Program.

Professional Development Day

Plans were discussed for Trustee participation in welcoming participants to the professional development day on September 21, 2007.

**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 2:38 p.m. and reconvened at 2:49 p.m.

Report from CSBA Conference

Vice-Chair Zeniuk reported on her attendance at the Canadian School Boards Association Conference held in July 2007. Trustee Heiberg provided further information on her attendance at the same meeting.

**TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members met on August 23, 2007 to set the agenda for this meeting and to review the executive expenses.

Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

Some hesitation was expressed about membership in PSBAA for future years. There is less support on the Board for future membership after one year of membership.

**ADJOURNMENT**

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

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CHERYL SMITH, CHAIR

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LARRY PAYNE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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