

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON JUNE 14, 2007, COMMENCING AT 9:36 A.M.

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
KEN OFFORD
VICTOR PETRUK
CHERYL SMITH (joined the meeting at 4:23 p.m.)
HAMEED SYED (left the meeting at 5:32 p.m.)
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent (left the meeting at 4:19 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 5:09 p.m.)
LARRY PAYNE, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent-Elect
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Officer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Herder called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Don Gillies, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#93/07 H. SYED – That the agenda be approved with the additions noted on the distributed sheet and the following addition:

6.13 b) Contract Bus Purchase

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#94/07 P. ZENIUK – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 10 and 24, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

UPDATE ON STAFFING

Mr. Gillies provided Trustees with an update on staffing for the 2007-08 school year, noting that there have been 22 administrative position changes, 38 teacher and administrator resignations, 46 teaching jobs posted to date, and 23 teacher and administrator transfers (13 teachers and 10 administrators).

IN-CAMERA SESSION (10:06 a.m.)

#95/07 G. OBERG – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Assistant Superintendent Gillies, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Mr. Gillies left the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 11:11 a.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 11:47 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

RESIGNATION FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brenda Herder, Chair of the Board, submitted her letter of resignation as Trustee for the Camrose County South Ward.

FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK – ALLAN JOHNSTONE AND LOUGHEED SCHOOLS

The school communities of Hardisty and Lougheed requested Board consideration to move to a four-day school week.

At the beginning of this school year, the Allan Johnstone School was served by four bus routes. In November, one bus driver went on medical leave, and the Transportation Department was unable to find a replacement driver. As a result, the bus routes for Allan Johnstone and Lougheed Schools were modified to provide service with one fewer drivers. This resulted in earlier arrival at Allan Johnstone School and later departure with a significant amount of unstructured time for bus students as well as extra supervision time for school staff. Approximately one-third of the students at Allan Johnstone School are affected by this.

Approximately 80% of the students at the Lougheed School are bused on the above-noted routes with earlier pick up times. The parents feel that the move to a four-day week would reduce the total ride time, so students would be less tired and more able to focus on their school work.

#96/07 K. OFFORD – That the Board permits, on a pilot basis and for the 2007-08 school year, the Allan Johnstone and Lougheed Schools to move to a four-day week.

CARRIED

UPDATE ON EDUCARE PROGRAM AT JACK STUART SCHOOL

Dr. Phillips informed Trustees that the Educare Program proposed for Jack Stuart School for the 2007-08 school year will not proceed. However, the Principal is interested in pursuing this further for the 2008-09 school year.

#97/07 R. HEIBERG – That the funds allocated to the Educare Program be carried forward to the 2007-08 school year to enable the Jack Stuart School administrators to further explore options for the 2008-09 school year.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened at 1:18 p.m.

POLICY 15 ‘SCHOOL/PROGRAM CLOSURE’

Dr. Phillips reviewed proposed changes to policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’ to reflect recommendations from the Small Schools Committee.

#98/07 V. PETRUK – That the procedures noted in policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’ be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

BUSING FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

At 1:31 p.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Allan Hunsperger to the meeting, invited introductions and invited his presentation.

Mr. Hunsperger informed Trustees that, effective September 2007, the House Ministries of Tofield will be operating a private Christian School (Living Stones Christian Academy) for students in grades K-9 (in the first year of operation) and requested permission for students attending this academy to ride on Battle River School Division #31 school buses that have room and that are driving by the students’ residences. Mr. Hunsperger noted that, as far as he is aware, no students who would be attending this Academy, at this point, are currently attending Battle River School Division #31.

Mr. Hunsperger left the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

#99/07 G. OBERG – That the request for permission for students attending the Living Stones Christian Academy in Tofield to ride Battle River School Division #31 school buses be denied.

CARRIED

CW SEARS SCHOOL REVIEW ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

At 1:50 p.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Rick Tews, Principal, and Leah Dushenski, Vice-Principal of the CW Sears School to the meeting, invited introductions, and invited their report. Laura Lindsay, School Council Chair, and Cheryl Galbraith, School Council Secretary at CW Sears School also joined the meeting.

Mr. Tews and Ms Dushenski reported on the status of implementation of the recommendations noted in the review of the CW Sears School held in January 2007.

School administration left binders for each Trustee which outlines in more detail the implementation of the twelve recommendations contained in the review report. One copy of this binder will be placed in the files at Battle River School Division #31.

Ms Herder thanked Mr. Tews and Ms Dushenski for their excellent report and for the work that has been done on the recommendations.

The delegation left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

CHARLIE KILLAM SCHOOL REVIEW ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

At 2:31 p.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Carol Brown, Principal, and Tom Midbo, Vice-Principal at Charlie Killam School, and invited their report.

Ms Brown and Mr. Midbo reported on the status of implementation of the recommendations noted in the review of the Charlie Killam School during the last school year.

Ms Brown noted that staff at the School felt that it was more important to revise, and consistently implement, a discipline policy than it was to revise their mission and vision statements. A school-wide code of conduct was also initiated and this was presented to the Trustees.

The results of this report are attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

Ms Brown and Mr. Midbo were commended for the code of conduct implementation.

Ms Herder expressed her appreciation for the hard work that has been done at the school and asked that the Board's congratulations and thanks be expressed to the staff.

Ms Brown and Mr. Midbo left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

NEW NORWAY SCHOOL REVIEW ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

At 2:56 p.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Pat McFeely, Principal at New Norway School, to the meeting and invited his report.

Mr. McFeely reported on the status of implementation of the recommendations noted in the review of the New Norway School during the review of that School last year.

This report is attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

Mr. McFeely and his staff were commended for implementation, and for the focus developed, on the various initiatives on the recommendations.

Ms Herder congratulated Mr. McFeely and his staff for the work each has done and for the pride and enthusiasm shown by the staff.

Mr. McFeely left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

REPORT ON AISI PROJECTS

At 3:25 p.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Rick Jarrett, Director of Curriculum, to the meeting, congratulated him on his recent appointment as Assistant Superintendent and invited his report on the AISI projects this year.

Mr. Jarrett indicated that the two AISI projects – Pyramid of Success and Assessment for Learning – are linked.

Mr. Jarrett noted three goals for the Pyramid of Success project and noted successes and challenges of each. The three goals are:

- to develop the capacity of teachers and administrators to implement the pyramid of success
- to improve the achievement of targeted students
- to increase professional learning toward targeted school improvement.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH/EVER ACTIVE SCHOOL PROJECT

Mr. Jarrett reported on the possibility of Battle River School Division #31 partnering with the Ever Active Schools program, East Central Health, and the University of Alberta to support the successful implementation of developing a comprehensive school health model that would be specific to the needs of Battle River School Division #31 and to be known as “The Battle River Project”. This would involve a full-time professional staff position that will be structured so that approximately 0.5 fte would be spent coordinating the project in Battle River School Division #31 and approximately 0.5 fte would be spent working on provincial initiatives for Ever Active Schools.

Battle River School Division #31 will fund 0.2 fte of this position and may also provide support for the project with office space and materials.

#100/07 K. OFFORD – That the Board provides a 0.2 fte position, from the Board Innovations Fund, for the ‘Battler River Project’.

CARRIED

MULTI-AGE PANEL REPORT

At 3:51 p.m. Chairman Herder welcomed Joannie Zimmer, Division Principal; Linda Wnuk, Principal at Rosalind School; Pauline Thompson, Teacher at Strome School; and Jamie Burdon, Teacher at Rosalind School, and invited their report.

The panel reviewed the progress of the multi-age program and the building of supports. The multi-age group held four scheduled and structured collaboration meetings, shared best practices and met for a full-day in January 2007 to which support staff were invited. Visits to the Buffalo Trail School Division were also done.

Panel members shared what is happening in their classrooms/schools with respect to the multi-age program.

Dr. Phillips noted that he has appreciated, over the whole project, the leadership that these people have provided, as well as that of Ms Zimmer, in the Division.

Ms Herder noted that she had the opportunity to sit in for part of the workshops and was impressed by the focus of the workshops. She thanked the panel for accepting this challenge.

The delegation left the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Mr. Bosh left the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

THREE-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN

Dr. Payne presented a draft of the Three-Year Education Plan 2007-2010.

Trustee Smith joined the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

#101/07 H. SYED – That the Board approves the Three-Year Plan 2007/2008 – 2009/2010 as presented.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (4:49 p.m.)

#102/07 V. PETRUK – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Assistant Superintendent Payne, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber.

CARRIED

Mr. Bosh rejoined the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Trustee Syed left the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 5:55 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 5:55 p.m.

MOTION TO GO BEYOND 5:00 P.M.

#103/07 G. OBERG – That the regular meeting continue beyond 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

ASBA REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Eligibility to Run for School Board

Chairman Herder spoke to a document from Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) with respect to eligibility to run for public school trustee.

Governance Review

Chairman Herder reported on a meeting at ASBA on June 5, 2007 with respect to the governance review.

MEETING RECESS

At 6:00 p.m. the regular meeting recessed until 9:30 a.m. on June 28, 2007.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA..... 64
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 65
UPDATE ON STAFFING 65
RESIGNATION FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES..... 65
FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK – ALLAN JOHNSTONE AND LOUGHEED SCHOOLS 65
UPDATE ON EDUCARE PROGRAM AT JACK STUART SCHOOL..... 66
POLICY 15 ‘SCHOOL/PROGRAM CLOSURE’ 66
BUSING FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS 66
CW SEARS SCHOOL REVIEW ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 67
CHARLIE KILLAM SCHOOL REVIEW ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 67
NEW NORWAY SCHOOL REVIEW ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 68
REPORT ON AISI PROJECTS 68
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH/EVER ACTIVE SCHOOL PROJECT 68
MULTI-AGE PANEL REPORT 69
THREE-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN 69
ASBA REPORTS AND INFORMATION 70
 ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD 70
 GOVERNANCE REVIEW 70