

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2006,
COMMENCING AT 9:31 A.M.**

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
KEN OFFORD (joined the meeting at 9:38 a.m.)
VICTOR PETRUK
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent (left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.)
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
TIM CHAMBERLIN, Communications Officer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR

Chairman Herder called the meeting to order and invited Ken Robitaille, Coordinator of Technology, to provide a short report on video-conferencing. Mr. Robitaille was in the Board room video-conferencing suite fine-tuning some settings in coordination with Alberta Education.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- #18/05 H. SYED – That the agenda be approved with the following additions:
- 6.12 PSBAA Report – G. Oberg
 - 6.13 ASBA
 - 6.13.1 Retired Trustees Benefits
 - 6.13.2 Employer Bargaining Proposal Meeting in Edmonton
 - 7.4 Thank You Card
 - 7.5 Letter from Harberg Nikiforuk Wood
 - 7.6 Letter from Edmonton Public re Full-Day ECS
 - 7.7 Letters from Red Deer Public – Property Tax and Study of High School Dropout Rates

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- #19/06 C. SMITH – That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 12, 2006 and the special meeting held on January 19, 2006 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:48 a.m.)

- #20/06 P. ZENIUK – 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, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:02 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION RESERVE FUNDS

At 10:03 a.m., Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, and Larry Campbell, Fleet Supervisor, joined the meeting.

- #21/06 H. SYED – That the Board approves accessing the bus maintenance reserve fund to implement LED lights on ten buses at an approximate cost of \$20,000.

CARRIED

Ms Johnson and Mr. Campbell left the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

- #22/06 V. PETRUK – That the Board directs administration to write a letter to Alberta Transportation to express the Board's concern with respect to red-light infractions to school buses.

CARRIED

UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Pat Spelliscy, Director of Operations and Maintenance, joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m. and provided an update on the progress of the work on the heating system and roofing at the Strome School; and with the concern of strong unpleasant odors at the Bashaw School.

Mr. Spelliscy left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (10:34 a.m.)

- #23/06 R. HEIBERG – 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, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 11:36 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:36 a.m.

REFUND OF EQUITY FROM JUBILEE RECIPROCAL INSURANCE EXCHANGE

- #24/06 P. ZENIUK – That the Board approves the return of equity, in the amount of \$176,162.38, from the Jubilee Reciprocal Insurance Exchange to the Administration Building Reserve.
- CARRIED

BEAVER BUS DRIVERS' ASSOCIATION

- #25/06 G. OBERG – That the Board accepts the Letter of Understanding between the Battle River School Bus Drivers Association, described as all school bus drivers in Beaver Ward, and Battle River School Division #31.
- CARRIED

REVIEW OF POLICIES

Vice-Chairman Smith updated Trustees with respect to several policies which will be reviewed via various meetings, noting that policies CAB 'Site-Based Decision Making' and EEAD(3) 'Safe Grad' will be discussed at the Superintendent's Advisory Committee meeting on February 16, 2006; policy HK 'Student Evaluation' will be referred to the Policy Development/Review Committee; and policy FL "School/Program Closure" will be discussed with the Committee of the Whole of the Board.

POLICY HGCB 'TRAVEL STUDY'

- #26/06 C. SMITH – That policy HGCB 'Travel Study' be approved as amended.
- CARRIED

SIGNING AUTHORITY – DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

- #27/06 K. OFFORD – That, in addition to the Superintendent of Schools, the Deputy Superintendent be authorized to sign contracts on behalf of Battle River School Division #31.
- CARRIED

TRIP TO DISNEYLAND – BAWLF SCHOOL BAND

- #28/06 P. ZENIUK – That the Board approves, in principle, the proposed trip to Disneyland for the Bawlf School Band from April 19-23, 2006.
- CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

ASBA CALL FOR ISSUES

Chairman Herder noted that if there are any issues that Battle River School Division #31 wishes to put forward for consideration at ASBA Spring General Meeting, these must first be brought to the Zone meeting where the issue(s) would be discussed and a determination made if the issue(s) will be brought forward to the Spring General Meeting. This was received as information at this time.

ASBA CALL FOR BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Chairman Herder noted that the call for bylaw amendments are also to be brought forward first to the ASBA Zone 4 meeting before consideration at the provincial level. This was received as information at this time.

POLICY JG ‘COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES’

#29/06 K. OFFORD – That policy JG ‘Community Use of School Facilities’ be referred to the Policy Development/Review Committee for review.
CARRIED

SPEECH COMPETITIONS

Vice-Chairman Smith reported that the Division speech competitions will be held on March 15, 16 and 22, 2006 at Sedgewick and Camrose Composite High School (preliminaries) and Daysland (finals) respectively. The Committee wishes to provide cash prizes for student winning these above-noted competitions.

#30/06 C. SMITH – That the Board provides cash prizes for the winners of the Division speech competitions to a total of \$300.
CARRIED

FUNDING FOR ‘VOICE over INTERNET PROTOCOL’ (VoIP)

#31/06 V. PETRUK – That the Board funds its remaining portion of the cost of the VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) proposal, in the amount of \$74,133.46, from the Accumulated Surplus.
CARRIED

SENIOR MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

#32/06 C. SMITH – That the Board ratifies the increases to senior management with respect to negotiations with the Board.
CARRIED

Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS

2006-07 School Year Calendar

#33/06 G. OBERG – That the amended 2006-07 school year calendar be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2007-08 School Year Calendar

#34/06 V. PETRUK – That the amended 2007-08 school year calendar be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Draft 2008-09 School Year Calendars

Dr. Payne introduced three drafts of the 2008-09 school year calendar and invited Trustees response.

#35/06 V. PETRUK – That the three draft proposals for the 2008-09 school year calendars be circulated for consultation with the staff, and further that the resulting recommendation be brought to the March Board meeting for final approval.

CARRIED

CASS AS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Trustees initially discussed their support of CASS (College of Alberta School Superintendents) as a professional organization in December 2005 and moved their support of this concept. ASBA has since forwarded an e-mail to all Board chairs voicing some concerns with this concept. Dr. Phillips spoke to each concern. Trustees re-affirmed their support for CASS as a professional organization.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (PSBAA)

Trustee Oberg reported on his attendance at the PSBAA Council meeting on February 2-4, 2006. Mr. Oberg noted that the next meeting is scheduled for April 20-22, 2006. Trustee Zeniuk will attend this meeting on behalf of Battle River School Division #31.

ALBERTA SCHOOLS BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA)

Retired Trustees Benefits

Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP) received a number of requests from retired trustees for consideration of providing additional benefits for Trustees over the age of 65. ASBA is conducting a survey of interest in this. Trustees conducted a straw vote that indicated an interest in this and requested further information.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:01 p.m. and reconvened at 3:16 p.m.

Deputy Superintendent Bosh left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Employer Bargaining Proposal

Trustees received the information that a meeting with respect to the ASBA proposed bargaining model will be held in Edmonton on March 9, 2006. Trustee Syed and Chairman Herder will attend.

MARCH BOARD MEETING

#36/06 P. ZENIUK – That the regular meeting in March be changed from March 9th to March 8, 2006 in order to accommodate Trustee attendance at a meeting scheduled for March 9, 2006 by Alberta School Boards Association.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

The information items were circulated to Trustees during the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Zeniuk reported that the Student Affairs Committee held two hearings on February 6, 2006 with the result that both recommendations for expulsion were upheld and alternate education programs recommended.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on February 2, 2006 to set the agenda for this meeting.

Small Schools Committee

Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a Small Schools Committee meeting on February 2, 2006.

ASBA Zone 4

Trustee Oberg reported on his attendance at the ASBA zone 4 meeting on January 23, 2006, and noted that the Edwin Parr Award banquet and ceremonies will be held on May 29, 2006 at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer.

#37/06

G. OBERG – That the Board directs the Board Chairman to send a letter to the Minister of Education expressing the Board's concern with respect to the implementation of grade level achievement (GLA).

CARRIED

The next Zone 4 meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2006 in Ponoka.

ASEBP Report

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan is scheduled for February 17, 2006.

Drug Response Task Force

Vice-Chairman Smith reported that a parent mentoring meeting was held on February 1, 2006 with 70 registrations. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what the need is for parent support. Further meetings are planned.

Canadian Parents for French, Camrose Chapter

The next meeting of the Canadian Parents for French, Camrose Chapter, is scheduled for February 10, 2006.

Administrators' Meeting

The February administrators' meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2006.

Communication Liaison Committee

Trustee Heiberg reported on a meeting of the Communication Liaison Committee held on January 17, 2006. Trustees received a draft information package containing key messages for communicating with community members, municipal members and members of the Legislative Assembly.

Learning Together Program Steering Committee

Dr. Phillips reported on the follow-up with respect to the shortage of space this program is experiencing.

Healthy Interactions Steering Committee

Chairman Herder noted that the launch of the Healthy Interactions Steering Committee has been delayed until all groups in Battle River School Division #31 have concluded the training. The launch is now scheduled for the start of the next school year.

Student Achievement Committee

Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Student Achievement Committee on January 23, 2006.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATORS' WORKSHOP UPDATE

Chairman Herder referred this item to the Committee meeting on February 23, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chairman Herder declared the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

BRENDA HERDER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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