

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2006, COMMENCING AT 9:38 A.M.

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
KEN OFFORD
VICTOR PETRUK
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Officer (left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.)
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Herder called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#203/06 V. PETRUK – That the agenda be approved with the items noted on the distributed copies of the add-on sheet and the following items:

4.3 Superintendent's Letter

8.13 Anti-Bullying Resource

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#204/06 R. HEIBERG – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 12, 2006 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:41 a.m.)

- #205/06 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 10:10 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter of retirement from Dr. Warren Phillips, Superintendent of Schools, effective August 31, 2007.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH SENIOR STAFF

- #206/06 K. OFFORD – That the Board approves the salary adjustments for the Superintendent of Schools, the Deputy Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent (Personnel), the Assistant superintendent (System Improvement and Planning), and the Secretary-Treasurer, as negotiated for the 2006-07 school year.

CARRIED

REPORT ON CRITICAL MINIMUM ENROLMENT SCHOOLS

Dr. Phillips noted that meetings will be scheduled with the principals at the Alliance, Strome, and Loughed Schools.

Rosalind School

Chairman Herder and Superintendent of Schools Phillips met with the Principal and two members of the School Council of the Rosalind School, and reported on that meeting.

- #207/06 P. ZENIUK – That the Board directs the administration to investigate the advantages of making Rosalind School a satellite school of Bawlf School.

CARRIED

Edberg School

Chairman Herder and Superintendent of Schools Phillips met with the Principal and two School Council representatives at the Edberg School and reported on that meeting.

- #208/06 G. OBERG – That the Board defers further discussion on the critical minimum enrolments at the Edberg School until the Board meeting on November 23, 2006, in order to enable administration to provide further information.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

SECURE AREA ON WEBSITE FOR TRUSTEES

Trustees were notified that a secure area on the Battle River School Division #31 website has been created where agendas and support documents, ASBA and PSBAA meeting documents, and other items of Board interest will be placed for perusal rather than these lengthy documents being e-mailed to their dial-up addresses.

STAFF APPRECIATION PLANS

Chairman Herder and Trustee Zeniuk will work on the Staff Appreciation Plans.

MURAL PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST, PACE OUTREACH SCHOOL

Trustees were informed that a cooperative mural project is being painted on the east wall of the walking track in the Community Center. Students from the PACE Outreach School, Canada World Youth and visiting artists from Edmonton are working on this together. The project is a cooperative venture with the PACE Outreach School, Canada World Youth, City of Camrose and Hauser Home Hardware.

#209/06 V. PETRUK – That the Board provides \$300 for the mural project at the Camrose Community Center.

CARRIED

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dr. Phillips reviewed the priorities of the Rural Development Fund, noting that three or four of these priorities might fit well with the consideration of offering courses at Camrose Composite High School, and perhaps a second facility in the eastern portion of Battle River School Division #31, through Red Deer College or NAIT.

#210/06 V. PETRUK – That the Board approves, in principle, a submission of an 'Expression of Interest', for the Rural Development Fund to support post-secondary education in Battle River School Division #31.

CARRIED

Trustees Petruk and Offord indicated their interest in working with a committee to draft the 'Expression of Interest'.

PARENT LETTER RE AWARENESS OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Trustees reviewed a letter submitted by a parent with respect to the distribution of New Testament Bibles by the Gideon organization to grade five students in Battle River School Division #31.

#211/06 K. OFFORD – That the Board refers the matter of awareness of cultural diversity in the public school system to administration.

CARRIED

ALBERTA HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FEES

#212/06 K. OFFORD – That the Board pays the 2006-07 membership fee for any School Council in Battle River School Division #31 that is interested in membership in the Alberta Home and School Councils Association (AHSCA).

CARRIED

LONG-SERVICE AND RETIREMENT BANQUET PLANS

Trustees were updated with respect to the plans for the long-service and retirement banquet on December 2, 2006.

REPLACEMENT OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS – JACK STUART SCHOOL

#213/06 G. OBERG – That the Board allocates \$1,900 from its contingency fund to replace the missing band instruments at Jack Stuart School.

CARRIED

STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS AND TIMELINES

#214/06 R. HEIBERG – That, due to the process currently in place, the ‘Strategic Plan Process and Timelines’ be removed from the Board’s Annual Plan.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

At the time of reconvening, Deputy Superintendent Bosh was absent.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRIP REQUEST – FORESTBURG SCHOOL

#215/06 G. OBERG - That the Board approves, in principle and subject to the conditions outlined in Administrative Procedure 261 ‘Travel Study’, the request by the Forestburg School for students to travel to Italy and Greece from March 19 – 30, 2008, pending submission of the final itinerary to the Superintendent of Schools.

CARRIED

CAMROSE FAMILY LITERACY

At 1:26 p.m., Chairman Herder welcomed Sharilyn Cook, Camrose Family Literacy Coordinator, to the meeting and invited her presentation.

Ms Cook noted that she was pleased to be here, and that Trustee Zeniuk is a member of her management board.

Ms Cook provided information on family literacy programs available in Camrose and noted that the program is funded through Advanced Education on a competitive process by submission of a proposal. The program works through referrals only.

Mr. Bosh rejoined the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Ms Cook indicated that she would like to have referrals from the kindergarten teachers in the City and County of Camrose and ideas on how she can better reach the average family in both places.

Dr. Phillips thanked Ms Cook for the work she, and her facilitators, have been doing with the students at the 'Learning Together' program.

Ms Cook left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Communications Officer, Diane Hutchinson, provided Trustees with information with respect to several general events for School Councils through the AHSCA. Dates that are scheduled are: November 27, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Killam, and November 30, 2006 in Camrose from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS/KEY MESSAGES

It was noted that, with respect to the consultative process last year, Trustees solicited information on student achievement and safe and caring schools. Trustees were questioned with respect to what topics should be explored this year. Two topics suggested were: the Pyramid of Success, and strengthening partnerships in the communities. A Division symposium with respect to high school completion rates was also suggested.

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA) FALL GENERAL MEETING

Trustee Oberg summarized the policies and procedures with respect to the ASBA Fall General Meeting scheduled for November 19-21, 2006. He further reviewed resolutions coming to the business meeting that will require a vote at the meeting.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (PSBAA) RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Herder requested Trustees to review the documents sent to them with respect to the items of business and budget for the PSBAA Annual General Meeting scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2006, and let her know if there are any issues that should be reconsidered before she votes on the Board's behalf at the meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Trustees attention was drawn to the information items contained in the folder that was circulated during the Board meeting.

One-to-One Mobile Computing

A request for proposal submissions has been received for one-to-one mobile computing that would permit a student to have access to a laptop 24 hours/day, 7 days/week in order to enable them to select an area in which they would like focus, particularly in high school English and Social Studies in Battle River School Division #31. Mr. Bosh noted that schools are being surveyed to determine interest.

Mr. Bosh noted that this proposal needs to be submitted to the government by the end of November 2006 and will be presented to the Trustees on November 23, 2006.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:31 p.m. and reconvened at 3:48 p.m.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At 3:48 p.m., Chairman Herder welcomed members of the Student Achievement Committee (Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent; Don Gillies, Assistant Superintendent; Rick Jarrett, Director of Curriculum; Dawn Wrzesien, teacher at Hay Lakes School) to the meeting and invited them to provide background of the evolution of the Student Achievement committee, current work and future work to be done by the Committee members.

Dawn Wrzesien reported on the work of the Student Achievement Committee, particularly with respect to assessment for learning, and noted that she would like to introduce more secondary teachers to the assessment for learning concept.

Dr. Payne distributed copies of a proposal.

#216/06 G. OBERG – That, in order to begin the implementation of the action plan and achieve its goals, the Board provides the Student Achievement Committee an additional \$30,000.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (continued)

Meeting with the Minister of Education

Dr. Phillips reported on a meeting he and other Superintendents attended with the Minister of Education on November 4, 2006, noting that a tour was arranged for viewing of high performance modular building systems in Calgary. Dr. Phillips noted that other topics of discussion included: high

school symposium with accessible videos; review of outreach schools funding; discussion re CEUs; school fees and fund raising, renewed funding framework; and education property taxes.

Anti-Bullying Resource

Trustee Zeniuk recommended the following book as an anti-bullying resource: "Help! My Child Is Being Bullied" by Dr. Bill Maier.

Communications Officer Hutchinson left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs Committee

Trustees were informed that a number of recommendations for expulsion were brought before the Student Affairs Committee, with some recommendations being upheld and others with students being re-instated with stringent conditions.

Negotiating Committee

Trustee Petruk reported on a Labor Relations meeting in Red Deer on November 2, 2006, in which he, Trustee Zeniuk and Secretary-Treasurer Schulte participated.

Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee met on November 1, 2006 to set the agenda for today's meeting.

Capital Planning Committee

Terms of Reference

- #217/06 G. OBERG – That the terms of reference for the Capital Planning Committee be approved as presented. CARRIED

Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Projects

- #218/06 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the IMR flooring project in the computer room at the Daysland School in the amount of \$5,600. CARRIED
- #219/06 G. OBERG – That the Board approves an additional \$17,000 for the IMR dust collection at the Daysland School. CARRIED

Shop Vehicles

- #220/06 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the purchase of a new trailer for the Holden Maintenance Shop in the amount of \$6,500, and further that the funds be taken from the Operations and Maintenance budget.
CARRIED
- #221/06 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the allocation of \$60,000 for the purchase of a used dump truck, and further that the funds be taken from the Operations and Maintenance budget.
CARRIED
- #222/06 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the purchase of an extended cab one-half ton truck in the amount of \$25,000, and further that the funds be taken from the Operations and Maintenance budget.
CARRIED
- #223/06 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the purchase of a three-quarter ton van in the amount of \$30,000; and further that the funds be taken from the Operations and Maintenance budget.
CARRIED

Dr. Phillips left the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING BEYOND 5:00 P.M.

- #224/06 G. OBERG – That the regular meeting continue beyond 5:00 p.m.
CARRIED

Small Schools Committee

Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Small Schools Committee held on October 30, 2006. Committee members traveled to Buffalo Trail School Division to view one of their video-conferencing suites to watch a class in session.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 5:17 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on November 23, 2006.

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