

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2004,
COMMENCING AT 9:44 A.M.**

PRESENT

BRENDA HERDER
MICHELE MULDER
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

CHERYL SMITH
WAYNE THRONDSO

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
STEPHEN SMITH, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
TIM CHAMBERLIN, Communications Officer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

#41/04 B. HERDER – That the following items be added to the agenda:

New Business

16. Letter from Sifton School Principal re French Immersion Implementation

Information

16. Recommendations from Learning Commission - ASBA Conference Call

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:45 a.m.)

#42/04 M. MULDER – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools Smith,

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:01 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:01 a.m.

REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT LEAVE

#43/04 M. MULDER – That the Board directs the Superintendent to have the applications for professional improvement leave reviewed by a committee consisting of the Superintendent and two teachers appointed by the local executive council of the ATA, and further that this committee brings its recommendations to the Board in time for the Board to determine, not later than April 1, 2004 the number and persons, if any, to be granted professional improvement leave during the 2004-05 school year.

CARRIED

BOARD YEAR PLAN

#44/04 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the 2004-05 year plan as amended.

CARRIED

CALL FOR BY-LAW AMENDMENTS – ASBA

Chairman Poyser directed the Trustees' attention to a letter received from the ASBA with respect to a call for by-law amendments to be brought forward to the Alberta School Boards Association Spring General Meeting.

REVISION TO POLICY IO 'STUDENT RECORDS'

#45/04 G. OBERG – That the Board approves the amendment to procedure #5 in policy IO 'Student Records' as presented.

DEFEATED

ASBA PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith noted that the ASBA Zone 4 public speaking competition will be held in Red Deer on April 10, 2004. Mr. Smith further noted that the Battle River School Division #31 competitions will be held as follows: the eastern area will be held on March 16, 2004 in Sedgewick; the central area will be held on March 17, 2004 in Bawlf, the western area will be held on March 18, 2004 in Camrose, and the regional competition resulting from the above-noted areas will be held on March 23, 2004 in Daysland.

Mr. Smith requested Trustee involvement as judges.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Vice-Chairman Herder reported that a second consultative meeting was held in Rosalind on February 25, 2004 and that the meeting was well attended, well received and involved good discussion.

Joannie Zimmer, Division Principal, joined the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Ms Zimmer reported that a request to the school communities about holding a second set of consultative meetings resulted in the following schools indicating that, at this time, a second meeting is not required: Holden, Ryley, Sedgewick, Hardisty, Alliance, Bawlf, Hay Lakes, Killam and New Norway. Some of the above-noted schools indicated that more time was needed to explore options and talk with other communities around them.

Ms Zimmer further reported that Strome and Lougheed Schools indicated that they will likely hold a second consultative meeting in April following more discussion with the community.

Meetings have taken place at Round Hill, Rosalind and, scheduled for April 22, at Forestburg. C.W. Sears School reported that it would be pleased to join with Tofield School if such a meeting were scheduled.

Mr. Smith noted that in the City of Camrose, a meeting at Charlie Killam School is scheduled for March 10, 2004. The elementary schools in the City of Camrose plan to meet together and involve personnel from the City of Camrose. A preliminary planning meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2004.

BOARD MEETING – APRIL 22, 2004

The regular meeting, or the Committee meeting, of the Board on April 22, 2004 will be held in Forestburg.

SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Trustee Zeniuk reported that the Small Schools Committee members and several school administrators visited a school in Strathmore (Golden Hills School Division) and walked through a virtual school program. This program provides CTS courses online. It was noted that the Golden Hills School Division is also very proactive in the Hutterite Colonies in promoting high school courses.

Ms Zimmer left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

FRENCH IMMERSION IMPLEMENTATION – SIFTON SCHOOL

In response to a written request from the Principal at Sifton School, Trustees briefly discussed a possible name for the school that would incorporate the French Immersion Program.

#46/04 B. HERDER – That the item on the implementation of the French Immersion Program at Sifton School be deferred to the March 11, 2004 meeting.

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

Deferred motion #29/04 was now considered. This motion stated: “That the Board approves the amendment to policy EEACC ‘Conduct on Buses’ to reflect appointed departure times and governance by Traffic Safety Act.”

The mover of the motion, Trustee Oberg, withdrew the motion with no one in opposition.

Ms Johnson left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith noted that the Division is now approximately half-way through the school year and provided a report on the priorities and current status of Battle River School Division #31 in this priorities. This report is attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

Superintendent of Schools Phillips highly commended the work done by Jim Rubuliak, Director of Curriculum, and Joannie Zimmer, Division Principal, in enabling the Division to meet many of the priorities it has established. Dr. Phillips also highly commended Stephen Smith, Chief Deputy Superintendent, and Ray Bosh, Deputy Superintendent for the excellent work done by them in their respective areas of the Board's priorities.

LANGUAGE LEARNING REQUIREMENT

#47/04 M. MULDER – That, in keeping with the requirement of Alberta Learning’s second language learning initiative and with the exception of Battle River School Division #31 Hutterite Colony students, and further recognizing that Battle River School Division #31 schools continue to have the opportunity to offer other languages, French be the second language offered from grades four-nine.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 12:28 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Poyser drew to the attention of the Trustees, the information items as contained in the folder that was circulated during the meeting.

International Student Exchanges

It was noted that the practice of charging exchange students a fee equal to two-thirds that of foreign students appears to have had an adverse effect on the number of foreign exchange students attending schools in Battle River School Division #31. Trustees requested the Superintendent prepare a recommendation with respect to this.

ASBA Conference Call – Learning Commission “Set Aside” Recommendations

Trustee Mulder reviewed the information she had with respect to the thoughts provided to her by the Minister of Learning regarding the nine recommendations that he originally set aside for further consideration. This information was shared with the Province’s superintendents and Board chairs in a conference phone call on February 24, 2004.

Occupational Health and Safety Changes Implications

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported on the upcoming changes to occupational health and safety following a meeting at the University of Alberta on February 20, 2004. These changes will involve a great deal of time for developing regulations to comply with the changes.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Sears reported on his attendance at the launch of the handbook developed by the Drug Response Task Force, noting that it is an excellent handbook and recommended that everyone read it.

Vice-Chairman Herder noted that the Canadian Half-Pints were at the Rosalind School and presented a very good session on bullying and teasing.

THREE-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN

Trustees were informed that the date for submission of the Three-Year Plan to Alberta Learning has been changed to June 30, 2004.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiating Committee

A negotiating meeting with the ATA is scheduled for March 3, 2004.

Small Schools Committee

The Small Schools Committee is hosting a sharing session on March 17, 2004 at the Senior Centre, which will provide an opportunity for sharing information with schools.

Members of the Small Schools Committee will be visiting the Granum School at the end of March.

Capital Planning Committee

A tour of a number of schools with personnel from Alberta Infrastructure is scheduled for March 10, 2004. The tour will include Camrose Composite High School, Bashaw School, Alliance School, and perhaps Forestburg, Hardisty and Bawlf Schools.

Trustees were informed that the study of hazardous materials has been expanded to include the Colony Schools. A study identified serious problems with asbestos and mould at the Strome School.

Strome School

#48/04 B. SEARS – That the Board approves the Director of Maintenance to proceed with contracting for asbestos abatement in areas identified in the Strome School at an estimated cost of \$10-15,000, and further that these funds be provided through BQRP.

CARRIED

#49/04 B. SEARS – That the Board approves the Director of Maintenance to proceed with entering into an agreement with Workun and Garrick Architects to do a building analysis of Strome School at an estimated cost of \$2500-\$5000, and further that these funds be drawn from BQRP.

CARRIED

Chester Ronning School Roof Repairs

#50/04 B. SEARS – That the Board approves an expenditure of approximately \$33,600 from BQRP funds to repair the roof at Chester Ronning School.

CARRIED

Charlie Killam School Weight Room

The Capital Plan Committee will proceed with costing out the expense of converting the foyer at the west entrance of the Charlie Killam School gymnasium to convert this area to a weight room.

Heisler School Grounds

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte informed Trustees that he received a request from a resident of Heisler to lease out the Heisler School grounds for use as a pasture for horses.

ASBA Zone 4

Trustee Oberg reported on an ASBA Zone 4 executive meeting he attended at which time the bylaws and executive roles were revised and a yearly plan drafted. He further noted that Zone 4 is interested in nominating the Legion as a Friend of Education. Battle River School Division #31 Trustees indicated support for this nomination.

The next zone meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2004 in Red Deer.

ASEBP

The next ASEBP Directors meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2004.

Drug Response Task Force

The Drug Response Task Force met on February 24, 2004

ATA Liaison Committee

Chairman Poyser contacted the chairman of the ATA Executive Committee who indicated that, contrary to what was previously requested, an emergency meeting is not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete, and there being no dissent, Chairman Poyser adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

GWENDA POYSER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER