

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2003,
COMMENCING AT 9:36 A.M.**

PRESENT

BRENDA HERDER
MICHELE MULDER
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
CHERYL SMITH
WAYNE THRONDSO

ABSENT

GERRY OBERG
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ALSO PRESENT

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

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

OATH OF OFFICE

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte administered the oath of office to Cheryl Smith, newly-elected Trustee from the City of Camrose Ward. Trustees welcomed Ms Smith to the Board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#267/03 W. THRONDSO – That the Board approves the agenda with the additions on the distributed copies of the add-on sheet and the following:

New Business

15. Letter from Alberta Learning – Teacher from Japan,
and further that the report from the Director of Transportation be deleted.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#268/03 B. SEARS – That the minutes from the October 9 and 23, 2003 regular meeting of the Board be approved as presented.

CARRIED

DISPOSITION OF RESERVE LANDS (BEAVER WARD)

Discussion on the disposition of the reserve lands in the Beaver Ward was deferred until the regular meeting on December 11, 2003.

UPDATE ON CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

At this time, all initial consultative meetings have been held in the communities, with the exception of Camrose, which is scheduled for November 20, 2003.

Trustee Sears has attended meetings of the Tofield and Ryley Town Councils and the Beaver County Council to inform each about the Board's consultative process.

A Division-wide meeting will be held on November 24, 2003 at the Daysland Community Hall from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Representatives from the municipal, town, village, and city councils have been invited, as well as school councils and school administration and staffs.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:50 a.m.)

#269/03 M. MULDER – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:32 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Director of Operations and Maintenance Spelliscy joined the meeting at 10:43 a.m. to present his report with respect to the work of the maintenance department.

Hazardous Materials Assessment

#270/03 W. THRONDSOEN – That the Board shall seek proposals, which includes costs, from Hazardous Materials Assessment consultants to investigate the jurisdiction's school facilities for the presence of hazardous materials, that the evaluations are intended to determine the magnitude of hazardous

materials at each site, and further that the hazardous materials to be identified include, but are not necessarily limited to the following substances: asbestos, PCBs, lead, mould, and other deleterious substances that are considered a risk to the health of occupants.

CARRIED

Heisler School Facility

#271/03 B. SEARS – That the heat be shut off in the Heisler School building, and further that the school be winterized.

CARRIED

Mr. Spelliscy left the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (11:09 a.m.)

#272/03 B. HERDER – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 1:54 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 1:54 p.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

#273/03 M. MULDER – That the Board ratifies payment of the accounts for October 2003.

CARRIED

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT LEAVE - #3509-02

#274/03 W. THRONDSOEN – That the Board grants #3509-02 professional improvement leave without pay.

CARRIED

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY - #4707-06

#275/03 B. HERDER – That the Board grants #4707-06 one-half day leave with pay.

CARRIED

EVER ACTIVE SCHOOLS

#276/03 M. MULDER – That a letter of commendation be sent to each teacher identified in the letter received from the Ever Active Schools organization, and further that all persons involved in the program be commended for their work.

CARRIED

LETTER FROM THE AUDITOR GENERAL

A letter from the Auditor General for Alberta was reviewed with respect to school jurisdiction audited financial statements. An item with respect to payroll and personnel management was identified for Battle River School Division #31 as needing some improvement. Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported that the concerns expressed in the letter have been addressed.

VIKING SCHOOL TRAVEL CLUB REQUEST

#277/03 M. MULDER – That the Board approves, in principle, the proposed trip to Spain by the Viking School Travel Club during the break of the 2004-05 school year, and further that the Travel Club adheres to the provisions outlined in Policy HGCB 'Travel Study'.

CARRIED

HEISLER SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT

The Board directed the Superintendent of Schools to investigate the construction and erecting of a wrought-iron marker on the site of the Heisler School site, with payment of such to be taken from the funds left in the Heisler School bank account.

Trustee Sears expressed his concern that the class pictures hanging on the walls of the Heisler School be removed and stored until such time as a place can be found for permanent storage.

BONUS FUNDING FOR CEUs

Trustees determined by consensus that bonus funding for CEUs will not be provided this year.

COMMISSION OF STUDENT ART

Superintendent of Schools Phillips outlined to Trustees the recommendations of a committee that met to determine the procedure for the submission and provision of student art work from high school students in the Division. The committee recommended that each senior high school art program submit one piece of art that would then be framed and hung in the Division Office for a year, after which time one would be selected for purchase and the others returned to the students in a frame. Trustees suggested that since some high schools may not have an art program such a school could appoint someone to coordinate this initiative for individual students who might wish to participate.

#278/03 M. MULDER – That the Board initiative to commission senior high school art work be adopted.

CARRIED

TENDER FOR ABATEMENT CONTRACT

#279/03 B. SEARS – That the Board ratifies the decision to accept the tender of DMI services for abatement of asbestos in the amount of \$58,968.00, and further that this be funded through BQRP.

CARRIED

#280/03 B. SEARS – That the Board approves the appointment of Ralph Hall of ROH Services as the consultant for the Charlie Killam asbestos abatement project, and further that the cost of \$8000 to be funded through BQRP.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees discussed the possibility of changing their Board e-mail addresses in order to reduce spam, and the removal of these addresses from the Battle River School Division #31 web page. Trustees also discussed exploring a new filter system for incoming e-mails.

Chairman Poyser noted that trustee volunteers are needed to assist in the upcoming long-service/retirement banquet program and presentation of awards.

Per Diem and Mileage – Consultative Meetings

#281/03 W. THRONDSOON – That Trustees receive remuneration for the scheduled public consultative meetings on a per diem and mileage basis.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:50 p.m. and reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

PRESENTATION – KERRY LABERGE

At 3:05 p.m. Chairman Poyser welcomed Kerry Laberge, Division Principal and Chair of the Drug Response Task Force (DRTF), to the meeting and invited his presentation.

Mr. Laberge noted the following:

- The DRFT has started another public awareness campaign as the use of drugs cycles.
- Articles have been submitted and appeared in the Camrose Booster with respect to the use of drugs and the work of the DRTF.
- An article appeared in the Edmonton Sun that was distributed across Canada. Mr. Laberge was interviewed for this article along with a student who has been off crystal meth for 8 months.
- Presentations have been done in Wetaskiwin, regional inter agency, and the provincial government's Standing Policy Committee (on November 12, 2003 along with a former crystal meth user who was previously an honor student, is now 8 months meth free and is back on track with her life). Mr. Laberge and Mr. Tim Chamberlin,

Communications Officer for Battle River School Division #31, met with Mr. Bill Smith, Mayor of Edmonton, who plans to call various agency leaders in Edmonton together for another presentation by Mr. Laberge and Mr. Chamberlin to present an overview of the model in place in Camrose for working with young people using drugs.

- The Handbook is ready for distribution with \$12,000 received in funding for this from Child and Family Services and AADAC.
- A professional development day is scheduled for November 25, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. for regional front-line workers and others who have requested permission to participate.
- The Handbook launch is scheduled for December 12, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the CCHS commons area.
- The DRFT has received a cheque for \$38,000 from the Community Mobilization Program (federally funded) for further awareness campaigns, enhancing parental resources, early intervention prevention, assisting with the initiatives in place, providing peer support, and helping support multi-disciplinary support teams.
- Seven youth under the age of 20 have been sent to various detox centers, two have been placed in Unit 3 at St. Mary's Hospital Psychiatric ward, and the Camrose Police Service have made numerous arrests. The drug use is at a low end of a cycle in Camrose and Tofield at this time, however there is starting to be another upswing so it is important for awareness and education to continue.
- The Task Force initially started with more than 20 agencies involved, however this has narrowed down to approximately 12.

Mr. Laberge highly commended the Board and Dr. Phillips for the vision and support received by the DRTF and the hundreds of young people that have been helped by this initiative.

Dr. Phillips noted that the DRTF is a good model for what has to happen across Alberta and should receive some provincial funding, which has not happened.

Mr. Laberge also reported on his work as Division Principal this school year with respect to students experiencing behavior concerns. He met with 21 students who are experiencing behavior problems and who range in age from grades 3-12 in 11 schools. His role is to establish a relationship with each child and work on anger management, behavior modification, noncompliance, etc. with the child, the teacher and school administration to find creative solutions to improve and provide quality services for these students.

Dr. Phillips expressed his appreciation to Mr. Laberge for his work with students with behavior problems and for working with staff to develop ways to relate to these students.

Ms Poyser expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for the excellent work he is doing in both his roles this year.

Mr. Laberge left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

ANNUAL BOARD PLANNING SESSION

Trustees were requested to fill out the questionnaires with respect to the planning session and forward these to Sylvia Lauber, Executive Secretary, who will forward them to the planning session facilitator.

ATA LIAISON MEETING

A meeting with the ATA Executive has been scheduled for December 1, 2003. Chairman Poyser requested that items for the agenda for this meeting be forwarded to her.

SCHOOL COUNCILS/SCHOOL COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

Trustees considered the possibility of changing the format of meetings with the School Council chairs. The suggestion was made to have one Division-wide meeting per year and school councils meeting once a year by ward (or some other combination). School Council chairs will be contacted for some input into how meetings could be set up to encourage greater participation.

Trustees received as information the implementation activities for recommendations from the 'School Councils – Next Steps' report.

It was suggested to Trustees that they should encourage their School Councils to seek membership in the Alberta Home and School Councils Association.

POLICY HGDJ 'ZONE/PROVINCIAL COMPETITIONS

#282/03 B. HERDER – That the Board accepts, in principle, the revisions to policy HGDJ 'Zone/Provincial Competitions', and further that this be sent to School Councils, Student Councils and School Principals/Staff for response.

CARRIED

MINISTER'S VISIT – NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Trustees were informed that Minister Oberg will be visiting Chester Ronning School and touring part of Camrose Composite High School on November 21, 2003. Trustees are invited to the ceremonies that will be held at Chester Ronning School.

MEETING RECESS

At 4:05 p.m. the regular meeting recessed until 9:30 a.m. on November 28, 2003.