

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON APRIL 10, 2002,
COMMENCING AT 9:35 A.M.**

PRESENT

JUDY FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
WAYNE THRONDSO (left the meeting at 1:35 p.m.)

ABSENT

MICHELE MULDER
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Acting Superintendent of Schools
STEPHEN SMITH, Acting Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

#79/02 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That the agenda be approved with the add-on sheet and the following addition:

New Business

16. International Travel Trip – Round Hill School

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#80/02 B. SEARS – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 14 and 28, 2002 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

GREEN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM – NEW FUNDING FORMULA

Stephen Smith, Acting Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the Green Certificate Program and the possible implications for students registered in this program if a new funding formula is implemented by

Alberta Learning. Trustees confirmed, by consensus, that the registration fees for students enrolling in the Green Certificate program will continue to be paid by the Division.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR – 2002-2003

#81/02 B. HERDER – That the Board approves the 2002-03 school year calendar as presented, and recommended, by the Acting Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools.

CARRIED

Director of Maintenance and Operations, Patrick Spelliscy, joined the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

FAMILY LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith outlined a request from the Camrose and Area Family Literacy Advisory Committee for Battle River Regional Division #31 to partner with the Committee in order to assist in the Committee's application for funding.

#82/02 G. OBERG – That the Board is willing to be a non-monetary partner with nonprofit community organizations who can access funds for Family Literacy Programs.

CARRIED

REPORT – DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (10:06 a.m.)

Director of Maintenance and Operations, Pat Spelliscy updated Trustees with respect to the work accomplished by the maintenance department since his last report to the Board.

The Board requested Mr. Spelliscy to investigate and prepare a report with respect to supporting playgrounds at schools. This will be done in tandem with the preparation of the 2002-03 budget.

The Board also requested Mr. Spelliscy to prepare an agenda for the continuation of school tours by Trustees.

Trustees were informed that the tender opening for the Forestburg School modernization project is scheduled for April 11, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Spelliscy left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

DRAFT POLICY HGBB ‘GIFTED EDUCATION’

#83/02 W. THRONDSO – That the Board accepts, in principle and with suggested amendments, draft policy HGBB ‘Gifted Education’; that this policy be sent to School Staff, School Councils and Senior High School Councils for input, and further that this input be received by May 3, 2002.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

DRAFT POLICY HJA ‘CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS’

#84/02 G. OBERG – That the Board approves, with amendments, policy HJA ‘Career Development Programs’.

CARRIED

At 11:15 a.m., a parent and a principal joined the meeting.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (11:16 a.m.)

#85/02 W. THRONDSO – That the regular meeting of the Board recess to allow Trustees to meet in-camera, and further that all persons except Trustees, Acting Superintendent Phillips, Acting Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

During the in-camera session, while Trustees were deliberating on a suspension appeal, all persons except Trustees left the room.

At 11:49 a.m., the parent and the principal left the meeting.

The in-camera session recessed at 11:49 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

DELEGATION – STUDENTS FROM CAMROSE COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

At 11:51 a.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed a delegation of twenty-one students from Camrose Composite High School (CCHS) representing CHORAZZ!, a jazz vocal group. Doug Nyback served as spokesperson for the delegation. The students outlined to the Trustees the many after-school hours of practice needed to compete in provincial competitions, noting that this practice time has been withdrawn as a result of the labor issue, and that as a result, this group could not attend the provincial

competition. The students requested that the Board withdraw their support of Bill 12.

During the presentation the students sang ‘Prayer for the Children’.

Chairman Poyser accepted a petition from the students petitioning their right for extra-curricular activities in the school and a settlement to be reached between the teachers and the school board.

Chairman Poyser thanked the students for their sincerity and assured them that the concerns they have are the same as those of the Board. Ms Poyser outlined what led to Bill 12 and noted that, at no time, does this Board ever waiver in the belief that what they are doing is in the best interest of students and staff. The Board will continue to take steps to deal with concerns expressed by the students and staff. The Board does recognize the stress and circumstances that forced this.

Trustee Sears informed the students that this Board has never said that it supports Bill 12, nor has ASBA said that on behalf of the school boards. Mr. Sears noted that ASBA asked for certain conditions with respect to the impending Bill, which were complied with, however they never asked for, nor condoned, the passage of Bill 12.

Dr. Phillips noted that teachers, students and parents work hard to ensure extra activities occur at schools, and the Board supports that through funding that is provided to groups or athletic teams for competition at the zone and provincial levels and for fees for school groups for the music festivals. It is important that the students recognize that the school board is a strong support for the students and provides, in the budget, up to \$100,000 for students for athletic and other fees.

Chairman Poyser thanked the students for the song they sang so beautifully, and noted that the Board recognizes that groups such as this one provide a rich flavor to the school scene.

The student delegation left the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

Trustee Thronson was absent when the meeting reconvened.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION (1:36 p.m.)

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 1:36 p.m. to present her report to the Board.

Amendment – Policy EEACA(4) ‘Accumulation of Seniority for School Bus Drivers’

#86/02 G. OBERG – That the Board approves, in principle and for further discussion with bus drivers, policy EEACA(4) ‘Accumulation of Seniority for School Bus Drivers’.

CARRIED

Ms Johnson left the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

EDWIN PARR NOMINEE

#87/02 B. HERDER – That the Board approves the nomination of Paul Lange, first-year teacher at Charlie Killam School, for the Edwin Parr Award, and further that Mr. Lange’s nomination be forwarded to ASBA Zone 4.

CARRIED

TRUSTEES PLANNING SESSION – FALL 2002

Trustees determined that a fall planning session will not be scheduled.

SCHOOL RESERVE LOT 11 BLOCK 49 PLAN 802 0160 – BASHAW

Trustees were advised that a letter from the Town of Bashaw was received requesting consideration for returning school reserve land to the Town.

#88/02 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That the Board directs Division Office administration to meet with administrators from the Town of Bashaw to discuss the terms of returning the school reserve land to the Town.

CARRIED

LETTER RE BILL 205 – SCHOOL TRUSTEE STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT

Trustees reviewed a letter received from David Anderson, Executive Director of ASBA, with respect to private members Bill 205 ‘School Trustee Statutes Amendment Act’. Trustees received this as information and were directed to provide any feedback directly to their MLAs or the originator of the Bill, Mrs. Mary O’Neill.

DRAFT POLICY HGBO ‘ACCELERATED CORE TEAM (ACT)’

#89/02 B. SEARS – That the Board accepts, in principle and for feedback to school staffs and School Councils, draft policy HGBO ‘Accelerated Core Team (ACT)’, and further that the responses be submitted by May 31, 2002.

CARRIED

CAPITAL PLAN

Trustees were informed that a Capital Plan must be submitted to Alberta Infrastructure by May 1, 2002. Trustees will receive a recommendation from the Capital Plan Committee for approval at the May 9, 2002 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

REQUEST FROM LOUGHEED SCHOOL COUNCIL – FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK

Trustees reviewed a request from the Lougheed School Council requesting permission for the Lougheed School to operate on a four-day school week. Trustees noted that the Board is now in the process of reviewing the four-day school week at the Holden and Ryley Schools and are not in a position to make a decision at this time with respect to the Lougheed School Council request. Trustees requested that the Superintendent of Schools meet with the Lougheed School Council and the Principal of the Lougheed School for further discussion on this request.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRIP – ROUND HILL SCHOOL

Trustees noted that a school-sponsored international travel trip must be requested, and endorsed, by the Principal at the school. This request will be considered when the request is submitted by the school Principal.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:23 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (3:23 p.m.)

#90/02 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Acting Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 3:38 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 3:38 p.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

#91/02 B. HERDER – That the Board ratifies the payment of the accounts for the month of March, 2002.

CARRIED

BUILDING QUALITY RESTORATION PROGRAM (BQRP) FUNDING

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte informed Trustees that a letter had been received from Alberta Infrastructure outlining the 2002-03 and 2003-04 BQRP allocations for Battle River Regional Division #31.

The Minister of Infrastructure announced the 90% of the 2002/03 BQRP and 80% of the 2003-04 BQRP allocation will be forwarded to school boards in the 2001-02 fiscal year.

Battle River Regional Division #31 will shortly receive \$532,735 (90%) of its 2002-03 BQRP allocation of \$591,928, and \$589,286 (80%) of its 2003-04 BQRP allocation of \$736,608.

Trustees acknowledged receipt of the funds and expressed surprise that Alberta Infrastructure was advancing BQRP funds for 2003-04.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Poyser and Herder, met on April 9, 2002 for a meeting. They reviewed several documents including the Sparsity and Distance Paper and ASBA Policy Positions. They recommended that a letter of support be sent to ASBA with respect to the Sparsity and Distance document.

ASBA Zone 4

Vice-Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at the ASBA Zone 4 meeting on March 25, 2002. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2002 at the Reynold's Museum in Wetaskiwin. The Minister of Learning will be in attendance. Trustees were requested to forward to Ms Herder any topic items for discussion at this meeting.

Administrators' Meeting

Trustee Sears reported on his attendance at the Administrators' Meeting held on April 9, 2002.

Small Schools Committee

The next meeting of the Small Schools Committee is scheduled for April 17, 2002.

Bashaw Neighborhood Place

Vice-Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a meeting held in Bashaw on March 19, 2002. Ms Herder noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current situation in Bashaw with respect to the closure of the Dairyworld Plant and to identify resources available to the community through various departments and services.

MEETING RECESS

At 4:20 p.m., Chairman Poyser recessed the meeting until 9:30 a.m. on April 25, 2002.

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