

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2002,
COMMENCING AT 9:03 A.M.**

PRESENT

JUDY FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
WAYNE THRONDSO (left the meeting at 9:45 a.m. and rejoined the meeting at 10:39 a.m.)
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

MICHELE MULDER

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Acting Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

Chairman Poyser noted that a guest was present in the Board room and asked Trustee Zeniuk to introduce her daughter. Andrea Zeniuk was introduced to the Trustees and welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that Ms Zeniuk was present at this meeting as part of the "Take Our Kids to Work" program.

NORDIC ECS CENTRE

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte informed Trustees that the Nordic ECS Centre is a private ECS group operating in a building owned by Battle River Regional Division #31 that is located west of New Norway School. This Centre has had a lease for the use of the building signed by the County of Camrose prior to regionalization, and that is now expiring. Mr. Schulte outlined the terms of the lease. Trustees provided direction to Mr. Schulte with respect to renewing the lease.

MEMBERSHIP FEES – ALBERTA HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (AHSCA)

#252/02 P. ZENIUK – That, for the 2002-03 school year, the Board of Trustees pays the membership for School Councils within Battle River Regional Division #31 who wish to be members of the Alberta Home and School Councils Association.

CARRIED

F.A.N.S. (CAMROSE SMOKING BYLAW COALITION) INFORMATION DISPLAY

Acting Superintendent Phillips informed Trustees that a letter had been received from the Camrose Smoking Bylaw Coalition requesting permission to set up a display in Battle River Regional Division #31 schools in the Camrose area with respect to raising public awareness about the effects of environmental tobacco smoke. The purpose of the display is to provide information to students who may know a family member or friend that smokes and increase that student's knowledge about the dangers of smoking.

Trustees indicated that there would be no problem having this displayed in schools provided there is no political intent. This was received as information only.

UPDATE – CONCERNS RELATED TO INCREASED ILLEGAL DRUG USAGE

Dr. Phillips reported on a meeting held on October 23, 2002 by the Advisory Committee on the illegal drug usage in the communities of Battle River Regional Division #31 and noted that each Trustee was provided with a copy of the handout from that meeting.

STRIKING OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE

#253/02 W. THRONDSO – That the Board strikes an Ad Hoc Committee to review, and prepare a response when appropriate, the document 'Renewed Funding Framework' in preparation for upcoming consultation with school boards and stakeholders.

CARRIED

REPRESENTATION ON AD HOC COMMITTEE – RENEWED FUNDING FRAMEWORK

#245/02 W. THRONDSO – That the Ad Hoc Committee on the Renewed Funding Framework consist of two Board members, one of which will be the chair, plus members of the administration as necessary.

CARRIED

Chairman Poyser called for nominations or volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Renewed Funding Framework.

Trustee Fitzmaurice-Johnson volunteered.

Ms Poyser called for nominations or volunteers three times. There were no further nominations or volunteers.

Gwenda Poyser and Judy Fitzmaurice-Johnson will serve on the Ad Hoc Committee to review the Renewed Funding Framework document.

Trustee Thronson left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

CEU'S (CREDIT EQUIVALENT UNIT) 2001-02

Dr. Phillips noted that earlier this year the Board accepted a recommendation to provide bonus funding to those high schools where the students averaged more than 35 CEU's. The bonus was set at 50% of the additional dollars generated. This year the Division average has decreased. As a result there is not sufficient dollars to pay this bonus.

MEETING RECESS

At 9:51 the regular meeting recessed and reconvened at 10:19 a.m.

CEU'S (CREDIT EQUIVALENT UNIT) 2001-02 (CONTINUED)

#256/02 B. SEARS – That the Board funds the shortfall for bonus CEU's from the prior year's surplus, and further that Central office Administration meet with high school administrators to review strategies to ensure that all schools earn at an average of at least 35 CEU's per student.

CARRIED

ASBA SCHOOL BOARD CONTACT FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Trustee Sears will serve as the contact person for the Board with Alberta School Boards Association with respect to Collective Bargaining.

ASBA BOARD QUESTIONNAIRE – IMPACT OF ARBITRATION

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte informed Trustees that he received a questionnaire from ASBA with respect to the impact of arbitration, and requested Board permission to respond to the questionnaire. Trustees agreed by consensus that Mr. Schulte should respond to the questionnaire.

POLICY HCAA 'FINAL EXAMINATIONS'

Chairman Poyser received a letter from a parent who noted that some schools are not requiring students in grade eleven to write final exams. This is contrary to Board policy HCAA 'Final Examinations'.

#257/02 J. FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON – That policy HCAA ‘Final Examinations’ be referred to the Policy Development/Review Committee for review.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Poyser reviewed the information items as noted on the distributed copy of the agenda.

Fraser Institute Awards

Acting Superintendent of Schools Phillips and Trustee Sears attended the third annual W. Garfield Weston Outstanding Principals Awards in Calgary on October 22, 2002.

Mr. Doug Bowie, Principal at Bawlf School, received the ‘Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations’ award, and was a finalist in the ‘Overall Academic Excellence’ category. The ‘Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations’ award recognizes the eligible principal whose school has achieved the highest overall academic performance relative to expectations (based on parents’ average education in years) in the past three years. The ‘Overall Academic Excellence’ award recognizes the eligible principal whose school has achieved the highest overall academic performance for the past three years.

Mr. Rick Tews was a finalist in the ‘Improvement in Academics’ category. This award honors principals whose schools progressed most rapidly in overall academic performance during the most recent three-year period. This time frame would include the years Mr. Tews served as principal at Hay Lakes School.

Trustee Thronson returned to the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS PROGRAM

Dr. Phillips noted that representatives from the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Program presented a proposal to Mr. Stephen Smith, Acting Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools. The program representatives proposed piloting a program at several schools in Battle River Regional Division #31 to work with students at noon and after school in a tutoring capacity. The students receiving tutoring would be those registered in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs Committee

The Student Affairs Committee met on October 11, 2002 and upheld a recommendation for expulsion of a student. The student will be set up on a home schooling program.

Capital Plan Committee Update

Trustees Zeniuk and Sears reported on their attendance at the CEFPI Fall Conference in Edmonton.

Trustee Sears reported that the modernization work on the Forestburg School is proceeding well.

Chairman Poyser reviewed a letter from the Minister of Infrastructure with respect to the approval of two core portables at the Charlie Killam School. It was noted that several Trustees and administrators will be meeting with the Minister of Infrastructure, Ty Lund, on Tuesday, October 29, 2002.

ASBA Reports and Information

It was noted that the next ASBA Zone 4 meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2002 at Stettler.

Chairman Poyser reviewed a letter received from the ASBA with respect to the hiring of an independent person to review procedures related to the recent labor issues.

Small Schools Committee

Vice-chairman Herder reported on a meeting of the Small Schools Committee held on October 17, 2002, noting good attendance and discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chairman Poyser adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

GWENDA POYSER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER