

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2001,
COMMENCING AT 9:35 A.M.**

PRESENT

JUDY FITZMAURICE-JOHNSON

BRENDA HERDER

MICHELE MULDER

GERRY OBERG

GWENDA POYSER

BILL SEARS

WAYNE THRONDSO (left the meeting at 11:48 a.m. and rejoined the meeting at 1:33 p.m.; left at
1:38 p.m. and returned at 2:15 p.m.)

PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

PAUL DOLYNNY, Superintendent of Schools

BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer

SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#217/01 M. MULDER – That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

Business Arising Out of the Minutes

1. Cornerstone Christian School

New Business

7. Staff Request
8. Update of Volunteers for the Advocacy Council and Small Schools Committee

Information Items

6. Report on Minister's Symposium – B. Sears
7. Follow-up, Board Retreat

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#218/01 M. MULDER – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 8, 22, and 29, 2001 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Trustee Mulder reported on a call she received from Mr. Doug Horte, head of a Committee of the Cornerstone Christian School, with respect to investigating becoming part of Battle River Regional Division #31. Chairman Poyser noted that a Board Committee has been appointed to meet with the committee from the Cornerstone Christian School to discuss the above-noted enquiry. A letter will be written to Mr. Horte informing him of the Board Committee and meeting.

DATE FOR NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL/BOARD OF TRUSTEES LIAISON MEETING

Trustees determined that the date for the next School Council/Board of Trustees Liaison Meeting will be February 20, 2002.

PROPOSAL FOR FAMILY SCHOOL LIAISON WORKERS' SUMMER 2002 CANOE TRIP

Trustees received as information a proposal by the Family School Liaison Workers (FSLW) with respect to a canoe trip during the summer of 2002. Superintendent of Schools Dolynny was directed to follow-up the proposal to the FSLW with the appropriate information and liability concerns.

STAFF REQUEST

Vice-Chairman Herder presented a letter from a staff member with respect to involvement in civic activities, specifically that of release time during emergencies involving the volunteer fire department. Trustees discussed this item and directed Superintendent of Schools Dolynny to review policy GBG 'Staff Participation in Community/Political Activities' and bring the revision to a future Board meeting.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS – REPORT

Mr. Pat Spelliscy, Director of Maintenance and Operations, joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m. and reported on the work of the maintenance department during the past month.

Mr. Spelliscy reported that the final inspection of the modernization of the elementary wing at Central High-Sedgewick Public School was held on December 11, 2001.

Mr. Spelliscy noted in his roofing report that all roofs of schools in Battle River Regional Division #31 are generally in good condition with the exception of: Forestburg gym and upper classroom, Killam elementary wing, Strome School, Heisler gym, the industrial art wing at Central High-Sedgewick Public School and the area west of the gym at the Bawlf School. Mr. Spelliscy was asked to prioritize the items and did so as follows: 1) Strome, 2) Killam, 3) Forestburg, 4) Heisler, 5) Sedgewick, and 6) Bawlf.

Trustees determined that the date for the re-dedication of the elementary wing at Central High-Sedgewick Public School will be February 27, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Spelliscy was requested to include the PACE Outreach School, the Hutterite Colony schools, the Instructional Services Centre and the maintenance buildings in the tours Trustees are currently taking of the schools in Battle River Regional Division #31.

Chairman Poyser questioned Mr. Spelliscy and Secretary-Treasurer Schulte with respect to the playground planning at the Allan Johnstone School.

Mr. Spelliscy left the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

ALBERTA INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (AIS) REPORT

Dr. Warren Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Jim Rubuliak, Division Principal, joined the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Dr. Phillips provided background information with respect to the formation of AISI and the projects proposed by Battle River Regional Division #31.

Mr. Rubuliak reported on the Accelerated Core Team (ACT) project in Battle River Regional Division #31. This is a project designed to assist students who are average to above average in ability, but are slipping behind grade level in various projects. Survey results, as well as information from random interviews of students and ACT teachers, revealed success and positive progress at most schools involved in this project. Parents especially seemed satisfied with the extra attention and support their children received in ACT.

Dr. Phillips reported on the Increased Staff Development project that significantly increased the funding available for staff development, with the primary focus continuing to be "student achievement". One of the major goals of this project was to provide in-service related to the Information and Technology Outcomes (ICT) curriculum to all Battle River Regional Division #31 teachers, with a special emphasis on those teachers who teach in the junior high school. This project initiative has significantly improved the quality and quantity of opportunities for professional development with an increase in the number of in-service sessions conducted for teachers and increased focus on assistance related to the implementation of the Information and Technology Outcomes.

Another focus of this project was to conduct pilots of the computer-assisted instructional program 'The Learning Equation'. This is an excellent resource for teachers and students in Mathematics.

This project initiative has also allowed Battle River Regional Division #31 to develop and pilot a virtual approach for the delivery of high-need, low-enrolment courses to senior high students through virtual technology.

This project was initially a one-year proposal, however it has been re-submitted to Albert Learning for continuance for three year.

Dr. Phillips and Mr. Rubuliak left the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Trustee Thronson left the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 1:33 p.m.

Trustee Thronson rejoined the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION – REPORT

Ms. Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m. to present her report. Ms. Johnson noted that the bus garage at Tofield is occupied and looks great and that the Ryley bus garage has also been completed. Ms. Johnson further noted that some of the new buses have arrived and are on routes and all new buses should be here before the Christmas break. Ms. Johnson is addressing safety-related concerns with respect to the CCHS loading area with paid transportation supervisors.

Trustee Thronson left the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (1:56 p.m.)

#219/01 P. ZENIUK – That the regular meeting recess to allow Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Superintendent of Schools Dolynny, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, Director of Transportation Johnson, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Ms. Johnson left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Trustee Thronson rejoined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 3:02 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS, NOVEMBER 2001

#220/01 P. ZENIUK – That the Board approves the payment of the accounts for the month of November 2001.

CARRIED

VOLUNTEERS FOR ADVOCACY COUNCIL AND SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Trustees were informed that, as of today, eight representatives from School Councils have submitted their names to serve on the Small Schools Committee, and one has submitted his/her name for the Advocacy Council.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Report on Ministers' Symposium

Trustee Sears reported on his attendance at the Minister's Symposium held on December 6, 2001.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs

Trustees were informed that expulsion hearings were held for five students on November 16, 2001 with the result that four students were re-instated under strict conditions, and that the fifth student was expelled from attendance at any school in Battle River Regional Division #31 for the balance of the 2001-02 school year.

Negotiating Committee

Members of the ATA Negotiating Committee informed the Board that a meeting is set with the ATA Negotiating Committee and a Mediator for December 14, 2001.

Facilities Committee

Members of the Facilities Committee have had two meetings with Mr. Doug Ramsay from Alberta Infrastructure with respect to the renovation and modernization of the Charlie Killam School and the modernization of the Forestburg School.

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

Trustee Mulder noted that she will e-mail the President's report to the Trustees.

Vice-Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at the ASBA Zone 4 meeting held on November 27, 2001. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2002 at Lacombe.

Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP)

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and a Director of ASEBP, reported on his attendance at a meeting of ASEBP, noting that the next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2001.

Administrators' Meeting

Trustee Oberg reported on his attendance at the Administrators' Meeting held on December 11, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete, and there being no dissent, Chairman Poyser declared the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

GWENDA POYSER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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