

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

**PRINCETON BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017, 6:00 P.M.**

---

PRESENT:	Board Chair	G. Comeau
	Trustees	G. Ellingsen B. Jepsen T. Kroeker D. Rainer L. Ward
	Student Trustees	S. Druck
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	K. Black

---

**AGENDA**

17/113 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

17/114 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held September 13, 2017, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Presentation: FSAs**

The Superintendent provided an overview of the new Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) components.

### **Presentation: SOGI Update**

The Assistant Superintendent provided an overview of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) processes occurring in the district.

### **Enrolment Update**

The Superintendent reviewed the enrolment numbers as of September 30, 2017.

He noted that overall, there is a decrease in enrolment from projections and gave specific reasons for changes at schools. This included kindergarten numbers being low, a decrease in enrolment at The Bridge which corresponds with a recent audit, as well as an increase in the difference between headcount and FTE at the senior secondary level.

### **Remembrance Day**

The Superintendent noted the Board historically has had a Trustee and Student Trustee(s) attend Remembrance Day services in both communities. It was agreed that Trustee Comeau, Trustee Rainer and Student Trustee Druck would present a wreath for Princeton and Trustee Swan and a Student Trustee would present a wreath in Merritt. A representative to present a wreath at the Shulus ceremony is still to be determined.

### **Meeting with Local Chiefs**

The Superintendent noted the Board committed to meet yearly with the local Chiefs, and will bring forward a date for review.

### **Field Trips**

17/115 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the MSS field trip to Bamfield Marine Education/Research Facility on November 13 – 17, 2017 be approved as presented.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

A question was raised regarding the availability of a satellite phone to be used on the trip and an offer of one for the District to borrow was provided. The Superintendent will follow-up with the offer.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent provided an update of the following activities in the district.

- UBC Rural Community Experience (4 teachers);
- JAE School/Community Garden Harvest;
- Princeton Corn Roast which had a great turn out;
- Learning Commons – Author Visit to Schools / Planning for Battle of Books;

- First Nations Welcome Dinners (Merritt and Princeton);
- Orange Shirt Day (Reconciliation);
- FSA Administration;
- World Teacher Day;
- Upper Nicola Culture Camp;
- Professional Development Day – super conference;
- BCSSA Regional Forum to Discuss Enhancing Student Learning Framework and Plans. Great team including a Student Trustee, District Staff, Principal and Teachers;
- District Sports (Volleyball, Soccer, X-Country Running, Lacrosse)
- Visit from the Lieutenant Governor at MSS and Collettsville Elementary School as part of the 150 school tour;
- Me to We Day – Vancouver, Collettsville and Vermilion Forks Elementary Schools and Merritt Secondary School;
- District Principal for Student Support traveling to Reading Summit in Calgary to meet with Dr. Janet Mort and Mike McKay to investigate the possibility of developing Comprehensive Reading Plan for the district.

### **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **LINKS Update**

The Assistant Superintendent reviewed the LINKS report for the 2017-2018 school year.

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

#### **Annual Review: Policy No. 407 – Respectful Workplace**

The annual review of Policy No. 407 – Respectful Workplace, was completed with no changes being made.

17/116

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Policy No. 407 – Respectful Workplace annual reviewed was completed with no changes being made.

#### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was noted that draft Policy No. 805.1 – Contingency Reserve, was incorrect in the agenda and on the district's website. The Policy will be brought to the November meeting for first and second reading.

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Jepsen for Diamond Vale and Merritt Central Elementary Schools, Trustee Rainer for John Allison, Trustee Kroeker for Colletville Elementary School and SCIDES, Trustee Ellingsen for Nicola-Canford Elementary School, Trustee Ward for Princeton Secondary School, and Trustee Comeau for Vermilion Forks Elementary School.

### **Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustees Druck reported on recent events at Princeton Secondary School.

### **Upcoming Provincial Council (PC) Meeting**

Trustee Rainer noted he will be attending the upcoming Provincial Council meeting at the end of October and reviewed the questions for debate with the Board.

### **Other Reports**

The Board Chair noted the two Welcome dinners at both ends of the district were well attended.

### **Branch Reports**

The Board Chair provided an update on the recent Thompson-Okanagan Branch meeting in Revelstoke and provided a one-page update from BCSTA.

### **BCPSEA Structure**

The Board Chair noted that currently, an administrator is the appointed representative for BCPSEA. He advised a new structure is being discussed to bring Trustees back as the BCPSEA Board with possible branch by branch representation on the Board. There was consensus this was an appropriate approach.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter and cheque were received from the RBC Foundation for the district's involvement with the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification project.

17/117

It was moved and seconded:

THAT a letter from the Board be sent thanking RBC Foundation for their support.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

NVPDTU Co-Chair Richard Jensen inquired about the funds received and spent on the Princeton Secondary School HVAC upgrade. The Secretary Treasurer responded that two grants totalling \$1.2 million, were received and an additional

Board approved amount of \$125,000 from the Annual Facility Grant was used to fund the project.

Mr. Jensen inquired about FSAs. The Superintendent and Board Chair emphasized that the District values the information and uses it appropriately to improve student learning as well as Enhancing Student Learning plans.

Mr. Jensen asked about inequities across the district and specifically, the facility improvements at Merritt Bench Elementary. The Superintendent clarified that from a Strategic Plan perspective, it is the goal of the District to provide quality facilities, equipment and resources across the District.


The Secretary Treasurer also noted the City of Merritt's requirements and approval process for the Merritt Bench Elementary portables.

The Board Chair added that decisions are made in the best interest of the District and students, not in relation to one community over another.

Mr. Jensen noted during his three years at Princeton Secondary School, surveys have been provided to students, but he is not aware of any follow-up. The Superintendent responded that student voice is important and that students have been asked for their feedback. A number of these items have been acted on and the process will continue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Treasurer