

**MINUTES**

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012, 6:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	R. Gage T. Kroeker D. Laird D. Rainer G. Swan B. Wiley L. Ward
	Superintendent	R. Peacock
	Secretary Treasurer	K. Black
	Assistant Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Lutter

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**AGENDA**

It was requested to add Field trips to the Education Committee and Renovations to the Budget Committee.

12/052

**SWAN-GAGE**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

12/053

**LAIRD-RAINER**

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held March 14, 2012, be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **Presentation: Merritt Central Elementary School Pow Wow**

Due to a miscommunication, the Merritt Central Elementary School Pow Wow will be added the next Board meeting agenda.

### **Summer Learning**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided an update on the district's Summer Reading Program.

### **Helping Teacher Model**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided an update on the Helping Teacher Model. He indicated some changes that have been put in place with the design of expanding on existing services.

### **Technology Pilot Program**

Superintendent Peacock introduced Technology Coordinator Jason McAllister who provided an overview of the Technology Pilot Program. The proposed pilot program would see iPads used in both Vermillion Forks and an elementary school in Merritt. He explained the benefits of the iPads ease of use compared with the traditional laptop. The pilot would provide a one-to-one iPad for each student at Vermillion Forks, with a one-to-two ratio approach for primary students. He advised the estimated costs would be approximately \$57,500. These costs could be reallocated from the potential savings in One-to-One laptops that would have been purchased for Coquihalla Middle School.

12/054

### **KROEKER-WARD**

THAT the district proceeds with the purchase of iPads for the proposed Technology Pilot Program.

**CARRIED**

### **Field Trips**

MSS Vice-Principal Darren Coates provided his recommendation on the two proposed field trips brought to the Board in the January 11, 2012 Regular meeting. Mr. Coates recommended the Stein Valley trip due to costs and safety issues.

12/055

### **SWAN-RAINER**

THAT approval be given for the Merritt Secondary School backpack field trip to the Stein Valley in late May early June, ensuring all of the safety measures are in place and are taken at all points throughout the field trip.

**CARRIED**

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent reported on the Enhancement Agreement meeting earlier this week. This was the first opportunity for administrators and teachers to look at the goals, objectives and action plans that were developed in consultation with the community. The meeting began with a visit to the House of Honour and conversation with the Academy students.

The Superintendent also reported on the science fair in Kamloops and the awards won by Merritt students. Noah Bergmann won Best Intermediate Award, Best Computational Science Award, and Best Life Science Award, Mackenzie Finch won BC Innovation Council Student/Teacher Recognition Award and Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC Award, Liam Warren won the BC Nature Award, and Robert Neil won BC Hydro for Generations Award. As well, Noah Bergmann and Mackenzie Finch have qualified to attend the National Science Fair.

12/056

### **LAIRD-RAINER**

THAT letters of recognition be sent to the four students above congratulating them on their excellent achievement.

**CARRIED**

The Superintendent also commented on the successful Elementary District Basketball tournament held at Diamond Vale and Colletville Elementary, and Coquihalla Middle School, just before the Spring Break.

There were also two successful activities that took place over the Spring Break, the Aboriginal Youth Conference at Merritt Secondary School and Spirit Festival Pow Wow held at Princeton Secondary School hosted by the Upper Similkameen Indian Band.

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

#### **Recommendation for Bus Purchase**

12/057

### **SWAN-GAGE**

THAT approval be given for the purchase of a 70-passenger school bus from First Truck Centre in the amount of \$87,247.00 plus taxes in accordance with their tender.

**CARRIED**

#### **Update on Budget Process**

The Secretary Treasurer provided a brief update of the budget process to date.

**Renovations**

12/058

**RAINER-LAIRD**

THAT approval be given to obtain quotes for the renovations to the change rooms and for electronic bleachers at Merritt Secondary School.

**CARRIED****POLICY COMMITTEE****School Closure Bylaw**

12/059

**SWAN-WARD**

THAT Bylaw No. 01-12 authorizing the closure of Coquihalla Middle School effective June 30, 2012, be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and adopted.

**CARRIED****TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Swan for Merritt Bench Elementary School and Trustee Gage for Diamond Vale.

Chairman Comeau reported that he and Trustee Gage attended the retirement social for Q101 Radio announcer Al Clarke and presented Mr. Clarke with a school bell and stand.

Trustee Gage reported that he had attended the recent FNEC meeting and noted the Aboriginal Grad ceremony preparations that were under way.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and action taken:

- BCPSEA confirming that the agreement between the school district and CUPE Local 847 had been ratified;
- Terry Fox Foundation thanking the district for their continued support; and
- CUPE BC research materials regarding budgets and funding for the K-12 sector.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

Merritt News reported John O'Connor asked what E-Learning initiatives are going on throughout the district. The Superintendent provided information of the various initiatives currently provided.

**ADJOURNMENT**

12/060

**LAIRD-GAGE**

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary Treasurer