

**MINUTES**

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012, 6:00 P.M.**

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

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**AGENDA**

12/008 **SWAN-KROEKER**

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

12/009 **LAIRD-RAINER**

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held December 7, 2011 be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Literacy Update**

Literacy Helping Teacher Jennifer Denton provided an overview of her role and responsibilities as well as a number of initiatives that have been undertaken.

### **Work Experience Program Presentation**

District Vice Principal of Student Support Services, Jane Kempston provided an update on a new program recently launched called Pursuit. Pursuit is a work experience program aimed at students with intellectual disabilities, health challenges, mental health issues, social/emotional impairments, and sensory impairments.

### **Trades Program**

Merritt Secondary School Vice Principal Darren Coates advised that the TRU Welding Trailer will be coming to Merritt Secondary School in the last week of August 2012 with the program running to the end of January 2013. Currently, out of twelve available spots, eight seats have been awarded to students and one seat awarded to an adult.

### **Community Learning Centre (CLC) Hours**

Merritt Secondary School Vice-Principal Darren Coates provided a rationale of the proposed expansion of the CLC hours. Three examples were discussed in detail, in particular, an evening session.

12/010

### **RAINER-SWAN**

THAT approval in principle be given for the change of hours at the Community Learning Centre; and

THAT a pilot project be run in the second semester of the 2011/2012 school year to determine the best use of resources for both teachers and student needs.

**CARRIED**

### **Stein Valley Field Trip Presentation**

Merritt Secondary School Vice Principal Darren Coates presented an overview on two field trip proposals, a backpack trip to the Stein Valley in Lytton or a canoe trip to Clearwater Lake at Wells Gray Park. It was noted that the only one field trip would be chosen for students.

12/011

### **SWAN-WARD**

THAT approval in principle for the Merritt Secondary School field trip to either the Stein Valley in Lytton or to Clearwater Lake at Wells Gray park move forward in gathering student interest and be brought back to the Board for final approval

**CARRIED**

### **Field Trips**

The January 5, 2012 list of Superintendent approved field trips was circulated.

It was noted that Merritt Secondary School's Outdoor Education curricular practical experience ice fishing field trip to SX Ranch on Garcia Lake is a Level Four field trip.

12/012

**SWAN-RAINER**

THAT the Merritt Secondary School Outdoor Education ice fishing field trip to the SX Ranch on Garcia Lake January 19, 2012 be approved as requested, subject to the information required for a Level Four field trip being provided to the Superintendent and that appropriate fishing licenses are purchased.

**CARRIED**

**FSA Results**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided an overview of the FSA results for both grades 4 and 7 as at February 2011. In particular, he noted the district was relatively consistent with the provincial average at the grade 4 level for those meeting or exceeding expectations in the areas of Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Conversely, when compared to the rest of the province the district's grade 7 report for Reading, Writing and Numeracy was well below average. He noted that results have been approximately 10% higher at the grade 4 level. He also noted that, as this is such a large difference, the district is currently working on a plan to put interventions in place.

**Rolling Bus**

The Superintendent reported on the status of the rolling bus project which currently is at a standstill until Telus can provide better coverage for the wireless internet.

**Child Care Course Update**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided an update on the Child Care Courses at Hearts and Hands. He noted the current courses being offered are Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program, Family Management Twelve and Parenting the Energetic Child.

**Disposal of Staff Computers**

The Superintendent advised the Board that the current protocol for disposal of staff computers that are greater than three years old is to have them assessed for current market value and allow them and the appropriate software to be available for purchase from staff. If not purchased, the computers would return to the district for use and for parts. He did note that all school related programs and information would be removed prior to the exchange.

12/013

**LAIRD-SWAN**

THAT staff computers that are greater than three years old be offered for sale to the staff at current market value, otherwise, will remain the property of the district.

**CARRIED**

### **IIP International Presenters - Vermilion Forks Elementary School**

The Superintendent provided information on the International Internship Program's (IIP) International Presenters which facilitates cultural exchange in educational and professional settings. He informed the Board that a Japanese teaching assistant has applied to IIP and would like to do some work in Princeton. He noted that the teaching assistant will be hosted by families in the community, with three educators from the district having offered to host the teaching assistant. The Superintendent outlined some of the traditional cultural aspects being offered by the teaching assistant would include the Tea Ceremony, paper folding, and calligraphy.

12/014

### **SWAN-WARD**

THAT approval be given for the Princeton area schools to host a Japanese teaching assistant sponsored by IIP International Presenters, subject to the required paperwork being provided to the Superintendent.

**CARRIED**

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent provided an update on a number of the programs being offered in the district including the following:

- Ongoing basketball at Merritt Secondary, Princeton Secondary and Coquihalla Middle Schools,
- Jackie Herman's workshop offering "Making Sense of Aggression",
- An iPad fun night with Jason McAllister on February 7, 2012 at the Merritt Board office.

The Superintendent requested Trustees to provide dates that they would be available for school visits.

He also noted that the district is still waiting on quotes for the Princeton Mini Bus.

In addition, he added that the topic for the Administrator's Retreat at the South Thompson Guest Ranch in Kamloops on February 16-19, 2012 is Self-Regulation.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **2011/2012 Final Ministry of Education Grants**

The Secretary Treasurer presented a comparison of the final Ministry of Education grants for 2011/2012 and the preliminary grants for 2011/2012. He noted that as a result of funding protection, the district's grants did not change from the preliminary allocation. He did note that the major area of concern continues to be the district's reliance on funding protection and the uncertainty as to the Ministry's long-term decision on the continuation of this funding.

He also noted that the Ministry recently announced that beginning 2012/2013, districts with declining student populations will be protected to at least 98.5% of the previous autumn funding level. For School District No. 58, this amounts to approximately \$375,000.

The Secretary Treasurer also reminded Trustees that funding protection is no longer in place for Distributed Learning Programs.

### **2012/2013 Budget Process**

The Secretary Treasurer circulated the budget plan process for the 2012/2013 annual budget. There was consensus that the proposed budget plan process including dates be accepted and sent out to stakeholders.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **PAC Reports**

Trustees reported on the following meetings:

Trustee Swan on the Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary School PAC meetings and Trustee Ward on the Vermillion Forks Elementary School PAC meeting.

### **Other Reports**

Chairman Comeau reminded Trustees of the BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch meeting to be held in Merritt on March 2-3, 2012.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following letters were received and action taken if necessary:

- The 2010/2011 Annual Report from the Ombudsperson
- BC Progress Board Benchmark Summary Report dated December 19, 2011.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary Treasurer