

**MINUTES**

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

**PRINCETON BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012, 4:30 P.M.**

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PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	R. Gage T. Kroeker D. Laird D. Rainer G. Swan 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 that the iPad Program be added to the Education Committee.

12/082

**WARD-RAINER**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

12/083

**SWAN-KROEKER**

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held May 16, 2012, be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **Princeton Secondary School 2012 European Field Trip**

Princeton Secondary School Principal Sandee Blair introduced teacher Kirk McConnell and students Nathan Garton and Austin Thibert who recently went on a European Field Trip.

Mr. McConnell and the students presented a slide show of their trip, which included ten other students, from across Europe. The students indicated it was a life changing experience and so enlightening to see the many different cultures.

The Chairman thanked Mr. McConnell, Mr. Garton and Mr. Thibert for their excellent presentation.

### **Presentation – Nicola Family Therapy**

Directors of the Nicola Valley Community Human Services Association (dba Nicola Family Therapy) Lynn Snook and Cathy Cox-Neill gave a presentation on the impact of the elimination of the Therapeutic Counselling Services Contract between Nicola Family Therapy and School District #58 (Nicola-Similkameen). In particular, the issues they discussed were as follows:

- Impact on students and families
- Impact on students completion rates and achievement levels
- Impact on the community
- Impact on Nicola Family Therapy

They noted that the contract with the district does not account for a significant part of the Nicola Family Therapy business, however, the \$35,000 contract being cut is a significant amount from their organization.

Ms. Snook and Ms. Cox-Neill are requesting to have the funds reinstated for an additional year.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Snook and Ms. Cox-Neill for their presentation. He noted that the Board would discuss this further during the Special Meeting and would forward a letter outlining the final decision.

### **District Achievement Contract**

The Superintendent circulated the 2012/2013 District Achievement Contract. He defined this contract as a three-year plan to be updated annually, and is the basis for the annual Superintendent's Report on Achievement submitted to the Board of Education.

The purpose of the Achievement Contract is to outline the district's goals for the improvement of student success, describe strategic actions for the improvement, and identify how the district will monitor progress and make adjustment to improve results. The plan aligns with other improvement initiatives including the BCED

Plan, Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements (EAs), and District Literacy Plans (DLPs).

The district's four goals presented include:

Goal 1 - Improve students' transition and completion rates.

Goal 2 – Improve students' literacy skills.

Goal 3 – Improve Aboriginal success

Goal 4 – Early Learning

12/084

**SWAN-GAGE**

THAT the District Achievement Contract for the 2012/2013 year be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Final 2012/2013 School Calendar**

The Superintendent circulated the 2012/2013 final School Calendar noting the addition of the date for the BC Family Day on February 11, 2013.

12/085

**RAINER-GAGE**

THAT the 2012/2013 School Calendar be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Field Trips**

The Superintendent reviewed the Merritt Bench Elementary School year-end bike field trip to Monck Park request.

12/086

**LAIRD-SWAN**

THAT the Merritt Bench Elementary School Division One year-end bike trip to Monck Park on June 27, 2012 be approved as requested.

**CARRIED**

**Enhancement Agreement (EA) Update**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided an update on the Enhancement Agreement (EA) work to date.

He defined an EA as a working document between the school district, all local Aboriginal communities, and the Ministry of Education designed to enhance the educational achievement of Aboriginal students. The EA establishes a collaborative partnership between Aboriginal communities and school districts that involves shared decision making and specific goal setting to meet the educational needs of Aboriginal students.

Further, EAs highlight the importance of academic performance and more importantly, stress the integral nature of Aboriginal traditional culture and languages to Aboriginal student development and success. Fundamental to EAs is the requirement that the school district provides strong programs on the culture of local Aboriginal peoples on whose traditional territories the districts are located.

He noted it is a five-year document that is reviewed annually. Mr. McNiven reviewed the four goals that the committee has agreed upon:

- Goal 1: To increase the level of health and wellness of Aboriginal Students.
- Goal 2: To increase the level of participation and knowledge of Aboriginal culture and language.
- Goal 3: To improve Aboriginal students/parents feeling of self-worth and identity.
- Goal 4: To improve the graduation/six year completion rate of Aboriginal students.

### **Community Literacy Plan Update**

The Assistant Superintendent provided an update on the Community Literacy Plan. He noted that Decoda Literacy Solutions is now the provincial body providing funding. It was noted that there was three years of implementation funding available with Merritt having received all three years. However, the Community Literacy Plan for Princeton is still in effect with one year remaining on their funding.

### **Elementary Band Update**

The Superintendent provided an update on the Elementary Band program for both ends of the district. He noted that each elementary school in Merritt will have a forty-five minute band block per week.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Mynra Coates for her hard work and dedication to the band program for the students in Princeton.

### **Board/Authority Authorized Course – LINK Crew 11**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven reviewed the proposed LINK Crew 11 program that has been developed by Merritt Secondary School.

12/087

### **SWAN-WARD**

THAT approval be given for the LINK Crew 11 course as developed by Merritt Secondary School as a Board Authority/Authorized Course.

**CARRIED**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided information on another potential Board Authority/Authorized course “The Fourth R” Relationships. This course would be supported through a partnership with Scw’emx Community Health

Services Society. Currently this is in the planning stages with consensus to continue the process and have this brought back to the Board at a later date.

### **2012 Summer Institute**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided Trustees with the 2012 Summer Institute dates and the topics and presenters that are coming. In particular, he noted the presentation on self-regulation to be presented by Dr. Martin Brokenleg.

### **Summer Reading Program**

Assistant Superintendent McNiven provided an update on the district's summer reading program. The program will run from July 3, 2012 to August 25, 2012.

### **iPad Program**

The Superintendent indicated that the district would like to offer iPads to one primary class in each elementary school. The cost would be approximately \$35,000 in total to facilitate the implementation of the iPads.

12/088

### **RAINER-GAGE**

THAT approval be given for the offering of iPads to one primary class in each elementary school as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent provided an update on the recent Pow Wow held at Merritt Central Elementary School and the success of this event.

### **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

#### **Roofing Projects**

The Secretary Treasurer circulated the summary of roofing tenders received for the roofing contracts at Merritt Central, Diamond Vale, Nicola-Canford and Tulameen Elementary Schools and that MidCity Roofing and Sheet Metal (2008) Ltd was awarded the contract in the amount of \$374,819.20.

#### **MSS/PSS Gyms**

Trustee Laird provided an overview of the Merritt Secondary School gymnasium upgrade and the Princeton Secondary School bleacher replacement. It was noted that the cost of these two projects is approximately \$850,000. There are AFG dollars allocated currently in the amount of \$560,000 creating a shortfall of \$290,000. At this time, the costs are estimated budgeted amounts with the actual costs expected to be lower. In addition, recent savings on the roofing quotes of \$140,000 could be used to cover part of the potential shortfall.

12/089

**RAINER-SWAN**

THAT the MSS gymnasium upgrade and the PSS bleacher replacement project be approved at an estimated cost of \$850,000.00.

**CARRIED****Nicola-Canford Elementary School HVAC**

Trustee Laird advised that the Nicola-Canford Elementary School HVAC project has been put on hold due to a potential pilot project for the school. He provided information on a letter addressed to the Ministry which indicates the district's interest in a pilot project for an eight to ten room modular school.

12/090

**LAIRD-SWAN**

THAT a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education expressing the District's interest in the pilot Modular School Project for Nicola Canford Elementary School.

**CARRIED**

Due to the installation of new roof top units, Trustee Laird also provided information regarding the potential need for an electrical upgrade at Vermillion Forks Elementary. He explained that the electrical panel may be unable to accommodate the new power usage. It is estimated that the potential upgrade may be as high as \$25,000.

It was recommended that the Building Committee explore quotes for the upgrade to Vermillion Forks Elementary School to a maximum of \$25,000 with the information to be brought back to the Board at a later date.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE****Surplus Goods Sale**

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the next surplus goods sale is expected to be held in the fall. Various vehicles will be placed in the auction as a result of the recent purchase of an activity bus, school bus and a maintenance van, as well as possible items due to the closure of Coquihalla Middle School.

**Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) Bylaw**

The Secretary Treasurer provided information on the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) Bylaw in the amount of \$7,317.

12/091

**GAGE-SWAN**

THAT CNCP Capital Project Bylaw No. 126469 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$7,317 be read a first, and second time.

**CARRIED**

It was unanimous that a third reading be held.

12/092

**SWAN-RAINER**

THAT CNCP Capital Project Bylaw No. 126469 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$7,317 be read a third time, finally passed and adopted.

**CARRIED**

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Swan for Merritt Secondary and Merritt Bench Elementary Schools, Trustee Kroeker for Coquihalla Middle School and Collettsville Elementary School, Trustee Gage for Merritt Central Elementary Schools, Trustee Laird for Nicola-Canford Elementary School, Trustee Comeau for John Allison Elementary School, and Trustee Rainer for Princeton Secondary School.

**Other Reports**

Trustee Rainer expressed his appreciation for the Board's support letter for the campaign to help with the Save Our Hospital Coalition in Princeton.

**ADJOURNMENT**

12/093

**LAIRD-RAINER**

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chairman

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Secretary Treasurer