

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012, 6:00 P.M.**

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

AGENDA

It was requested that the iPad Pilot Project Update be added to the Education Committee.

12/074

SWAN-RAINER

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

12/075

LAIRD-WARD

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held April 18, 2012, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Presentation – Merritt Central Elementary School Pow Wow

First Nations Support Work Martha Chilihitzia, Merritt Central Elementary School Principal Trent Dolgopol, and Principal for Aboriginal Education Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte provided an overview of the upcoming Pow Wow to be held on May 30, 2012 at Central Elementary School beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Comeau thanked the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication towards the preparation of this event.

Ms. Oppenheim-Lacerte provided an update of the First Peoples Graduation to be held on June 14, 2012 at the Civic Centre in Merritt.

Ms. Oppenheim-Lacerte also provided an overview of the Abbotsford School District visit to see the Aboriginal Academy Nine Program. In turn, the Abbotsford School District provided an overview of their iPad data gathering for the FNSW.

Presentation – MSS Kindle Project

Merritt Secondary School Vice-Principal Darren Coates provided an overview of the Kindle Reading Project. He noted the affordability of the Kindle at \$150 per device compared to approximately \$400 for an iPad. The Kindles are currently being used in the classroom with positive feedback from the teachers. He noted twenty more Kindles have been ordered for the school.

Chairman Comeau thanked Mr. Coates for his presentation and for all his work both within and outside the school. He also congratulated him on his successful appointment as Principal for Clearwater Secondary School.

Presentation - iPad Pilot Project Update

District Technology Coordinator Jason McAllister provided an update on the iPad Pilot Project. He advised that the two hundred iPads ordered have been received. Mr. McAllister discussed deployment and training options for teachers for use of the iPads and for collaborating with one another.

2012/2013 School Calendar

The Superintendent presented the draft 2012/2013 school calendar.

12/076

SWAN-RAINER

THAT the school calendar for 2012/2013 be approved as presented subject to the Family Day in February being set by the Provincial Government.

CARRIED

Retirement/Long Service Recognition

The Superintendent announced that the Retirement/Long Service Recognition teas have been set for June 7, 2012 in Princeton and June 12, 2012 in Merritt.

Job Action

The Superintendent provided information of the current job action climate, in particular, the removal of extracurricular activities. These include but are not limited to:

- Teachers are attending staff meetings but in some instances are not talking
- Some teachers not attending Pro-d's
- The district elementary track meet was cancelled
- Community field trips have dropped
- School dances have been cancelled
- Secondary awards banquet at MSS is currently cancelled
- Senior girls soccer tournament at MSS has been cancelled

Graduation preparation teachers were involved but have since pulled out so grade 11 parents have stepped up to help.

Field Trips

The Superintendent reviewed the Princeton Secondary School field trip request for a community coach to take a group of eight boys to attend "Schools on Dirt Program" at Whistler Mountain, The Bike Club members will receive lessons on world class trails by qualified instructors.

12/077

SWAN-RAINER

THAT the Princeton Secondary School field trip to Whistler Mountain on June 7 – 9, 2012 be approved as presented, subject to proper safety equipment being worn and all safety measures being adhered to.

CARRIED

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported on the following events happening in the district:

- The adventure playground equipment nearing completion of installation at Vermilion Forks Elementary School;
- The adventure playground equipment recently ordered for Diamond Vale Elementary School;
- Two Vermilion Forks Elementary School students recognized at the Rick Hansen entourage "Inspire Me"
- The success of the Merritt Secondary School library and the number of students that are using the facility.

BUILDING COMMITTEE**Tenders - Cargo Van**

The Secretary Treasurer circulated the list of tenders received for the purchase of a new cargo van for the south end of the district.

12/078

RAINER-LAIRD

THAT the low tender of \$22,000 plus HST from Murray GM Merritt for the supply of a 1500 cargo van be accepted.

CARRIED**BUDGET COMMITTEE****Budget Bylaw**

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the majority of the adjustments made within the budget have been driven by enrolment decline and the closure of Coquihalla Middle School. He also noted this is the first year using Public Sector Accounting Body (PSAB) rules which differ from the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) previously followed. The main difference with the new budget format is that it now includes the expenses that are made on the funds in particular the Special Purpose fund and the Capital Fund. For this budget year, the comparatives are not comparative in that the 2011/2012 figures have not been restated.

Trustee Gage commented on the operating deficit for 2011/2012 compared to the operating deficit for 2012/2013. He noted the difference of \$228,761 less budgeted surplus out of operating for 2012/2013 compared to 2011/2012.

12/079

GAGE-SWAN

THAT the Annual Budget Bylaw of the Board of Education of School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) in the amount of \$29,542,747 for the 2012/2013 fiscal year be read a first, second, third time, finally passed and adopted.

CARRIED**TRUSTEE REPORTS****PAC Reports**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Swan for Merritt Secondary School, Trustee Kroeker for Coquihalla Middle School, Trustee Gage for Diamond Vale and Merritt Central Elementary Schools, and Trustee Ward for Vermilion Forks Elementary School.

Other Reports

Trustee Rainer discussed the potential closure of the Princeton hospital and asked the Board to provide a letter of support.

12/080

LAIRD-WARD

THAT the Board of Education provide a letter of support requesting the Princeton Hospital remain open.

CARRIED

Chairman Comeau announced that Trustee Swan was re-elected as a Director for the BCSTA.

Trustee Gage expressed a concern over the random FSA testing.

In addition, he noted that FSA results for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students were presented at the recent FNEC meeting and the efforts being made to improve these results.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Health Promoting Schools announcing that the district had been awarded a grant of \$750.

ADJOURNMENT

12/081

LAIRD-WARD

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

 Chairman

 Secretary Treasurer