

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012, 6:00 P.M.**

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

AGENDA

It was requested that Teachers' Pension Plan Update be added to the Finance Committee.

12/154 **LAIRD-WARD**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

12/155 **RAINER-LAIRD**

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 17, 2012, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Presentation - Kengard Learning Centre (KLC)

The Principal for Kengard Learning Centre, Al McKay-Smith provided an overview of the changes that have occurred at the Centre. He noted that SCIDES, Hearts and Hands and the Community Learning Centre have amalgamated under one roof to form the Kengard Learning Centre. New signage for the centre has been erected and the entrance way for the alternate program has been renovated.

He provided information on a program Kengard staff attended, called the Inquiry Hub being offered by School District No. 43 in Coquitlam. The full-time grade 8-12 program is a division of Coquitlam Open Learning which brings students together in a technology facilitated environment and encourages them to explore their own questions from key themes.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Mackay-Smith for his presentation and his enthusiasm for providing the best alternate program for students.

Presentation – iPad Project

District Technology Coordinator Jason McAllister provided an update on the iPad project noting there are three different programs that were occurring:

- A one-to-one program at Vermilion Forks Elementary
- A two-to-one program in all primary classes at Merritt Central Elementary
- And a two-to-one in a primary class at each school across the district.

He described the positives of using an iPad compared to a traditional laptop, in particular, the speed of use of the iPad. He noted the learning curve at Vermilion Forks Elementary School was fairly short due to the number of iPads previously used at the school. The limited number of iPads previously at Merritt Central Elementary School has created a slightly larger learning curve. He congratulated the staff at Merritt Central for taking hold of the program and doing tremendous work.

He also noted the collaboration amongst teachers across the district has been tremendous.

Chairman Comeau thanked Mr. McAllister for his informative presentation and work on the district's iPad program.

E.R.A.S.E. Bullying

The Assistant Superintendent provided information on the E.R.A.S.E Bullying program and noted the 10 Point Strategy:

1. A five-year multi-level training regime:
 - a) Anti-bullying training for elementary (Kamloops, December 4th – Info / Registration out to schools)
 - b) Threat /risk assessment training for secondary schools (Kamloops, December 5th and 6th, Info/Registration out to schools/invites out to community members)
 - c) Three person district team to attend both (Jackie Herman, Jane Kempston, Steve McNiven)
2. Smartphone apps and online tools to be developed (focus on students)
3. District safe schools coordinator (Steve McNiven)
4. Stronger Codes of Conduct
 - a) Duty to report
 - b) Strengthened language related to Human Rights Act
5. Provincial guidelines for Threat Assessment Protocols (School District No. 58 draft developed last year)
6. Enhanced online resources (focus on parents)
7. Each district must have community protocols (School District No. 58 draft)
8. Creation of provincial advisory committee
9. Focus one of the six provincial teacher professional development days on anti-bullying (Principals advised at education meeting /resources shared)
10. Anti-bullying and threat risk assessment materials and training (ongoing, PSS participating in Positive Behavior Support Training)

Field Trips

The Superintendent reviewed the field trip list and noted that all trips were Level Three with the exception of one. He noted that the Merritt Secondary School Bamfield marine educational trip to Vancouver Island should be a Level Four.

12/156

RAINER-WARD

THAT approval be given for the Merritt Secondary School Bamfield marine educational field trip to Vancouver Island on April 26 to 30, 2013 as requested.

CARRIED

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent made note of the following upcoming activities around the district:

- Remembrance Day ceremonies
- The November 13th Supporting Young Readers workshop at the board office
- Shortened days for parent/teacher interviews will be held on November 20 & 21 for Princeton and November 27 & 28 for Merritt
- Report cards will be sent home at the end of the month
- The elementary volleyball tournament is scheduled for November 30
- The Vermilion Forks Elementary School band concert on December 3, at Riverside Centre.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Capital Project Bylaw No. 126409

The Secretary Treasurer provided an overview of the Annual Facilities Grant and what the dollars received can be used for. In particular, he noted that in past years the funds received for AFG were all considered AFG-Operating. Currently, the AFG is broken into AFG-Operating and AFG-Capital. To receive the AFG-Capital funding Board approval of a Capital Project Bylaw is required. He advised that a request for capital projects would be sent to Principals in late January.

12/157

LAIRD-RAINER

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126409 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$441,127 for Project No. 126409 Annual Facilities Grant Allocation, be read a first and second time.

CARRIED

There was consensus that a third reading be held.

12/158

RAINER-WARD

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126409 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$441,127 for Project No. 126409 Annual Facilities Grant Allocation, be read a third time, finally passed and adopted.

CARRIED

Teacher Pension Plan

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the recent notification that a 1.3 percent increase each for members and employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Plan will become effective July 1, 2013. He noted this increase will cost the district approximately \$155,000 additionally from budgeted projections.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Update – Merritt Secondary School Gymnasium Renovations

The Superintendent provided a progress report on the Merritt Secondary School gymnasium renovation. He noted a site meeting with all work stakeholders, had taken place to determine the status of the project and if the current plan needs to be revamped.

He stated that the temporary wall will be moved and the students will be able to use the full gym floor effective November 12th. He also indicated that the revised completion date for the floor and bleachers will be after the Christmas break with the change room completion date being at the end of January.

Five Year Capital Plan

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a copy of the Five Year Capital Plan. He noted the four main capital items for the district include two buses, the HVAC upgrade at Princeton Secondary School, and a renovation at Merritt Central Elementary School.

12/159

WARD-LAIRD

THAT the Five year capital plan be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Gage for Diamond Vale and Merritt Central Elementary Schools, Trustee Comeau for John Allison Elementary School, and Trustee Ward for Vermilion Forks Elementary School.

Other Reports

Trustee Gage provided an overview of the recent Provincial Council meeting.

Trustee Laird gave a report on the recent BCPSEA Symposium attended by himself, Trustee Comeau, the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer.

Draft Board Meeting Dates

The following dates were approved for upcoming Board meetings:

February 13, 2013	Princeton
March 13, 2013	Merritt
April 10, 2013	Princeton
May 8, 2013	Merritt
June 12, 2013	Princeton

City of Merritt/Town of Princeton/Board of Education Meeting

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the City of Merritt has requested a joint Committee of the Whole meeting on January 29, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. and the Town of Princeton would like meet on December 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

12/160

LAIRD-RAINER

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer