

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013, 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	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

13/009 **WARD-SWAN**

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MINUTES

13/010 **SWAN-LAIRD**

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held December 12, 2012, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Presentation – Merritt Secondary School Health Fair

The Superintendent introduced Dave Finch from Merritt Secondary School who provided an overview of the upcoming Healthy Choices Fair taking place on Friday, February 8, 2013 at Merritt Secondary School. He noted that topics such as sex, relationships, problem solving, where and how to access information and help in our community, decision making, and personal hygiene would be discussed at the fair. He noted that Merritt Secondary school staff, counsellors and Administrators, the Social Emotional Learning Team (SELT) members and MSS students have all provided input into the fair.

Presentation – Suicide Prevention Protocol

The Superintendent introduced the Principal for Student Support Services, Jane Kempston, who provided an overview of the suicide prevention protocol and presented Trustees with a draft protocol agreement. She noted the protocol speaks to the district having the following:

- a safety plan in place;
- ensuring the district has adults that will be with students in moments of need; and
- the district continue to provide support for these students after an incident has occurred.

She advised the protocol also discusses ‘wrap around support’ between community agencies. It suggests that the district not work in isolation but rather in cooperation for the benefit and well-being of students.

FSA Update

The Assistant Superintendent provided an update on the FSAs. He noted the FSAs are taking place from January 14th to February 22nd with the scoring of the assessments for the district to take place in late February. A notice or invite to score will go out to teachers and principals shortly. All students are writing the FSA unless there is a portion of it that would be considered undue hardship. If this occurs, the parents and Superintendent are notified by the Principal to this regard. He noted to date, there have been no concerns to this effect.

Welding Program Update

The Superintendent noted that, of the original twelve students registered for the welding program, nine are currently still attending and will be graduating at the end of January.

2013/2014 School Calendar

The Superintendent provided information on Bill 36 which established new legislation regarding the school calendar. He advised that beginning the 2013/2014 school year, there will no longer be a standard school calendar. Each district will develop a school calendar to be submitted to the Ministry of Education by the end of March.

He noted the district is in the process of forming a committee to begin a review to look at potential changes. A request has been sent out to Administrators to sit on the committee or identify parents to participate. Trustee Laird and Trustee Ward have put forth their names to sit on the committee as well.

Field Trips

The Superintendent circulated the January 10, 2013 list of Superintendent approved field trips. He noted that he has been in contact with School Protection Program and has recommended that students while tobogganing at any time wear helmets.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent noted a number of activities going on in the district including the upcoming Carnival week at Collettsville Elementary School from January 28th to February 1st, the Merritt Secondary School gymnasium floor is complete, however, the contractors are still working on the change rooms, Provincial exam days will be occurring at the secondary schools from January 30th to February 1st and a second Culture Camp session is being held on January 30th.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Capital Plan Bylaw No 126368-A Playground Equipment

The Secretary Treasurer circulated the Playground Equipment Capital Project Bylaw for an additional \$50,000, bringing the total maximum expenditure to \$54,709.

13/011

LAIRD-WARD

THAT Playground Equipment Capital Project Bylaw No. 12368-A specifying an additional maximum expenditure of \$50,000, bringing the project total maximum expenditure to \$54,709, be read a first and second time.

CARRIED

It was unanimous that a third reading be held.

13/012

RAINER-WARD

THAT Playground Equipment Capital Project Bylaw No. 12368-A specifying an additional maximum expenditure of \$50,000, bringing the project total maximum expenditure to \$54,709, be read a third time, finally passed and adopted.

CARRIED**Appointment of Auditors**

The Secretary Treasurer advised that McConnell, Voelkl Chartered Accountants have been the auditors for the district and would recommend having them do the audit for the 2012/2013 year.

13/013

WARD-LAIRD

THAT McConnell, Voelkl Chartered Accountants be appointed as the district's auditors for the 2012/2013 school year.

CARRIED**2013/2014 Budget Plan Process**

The Secretary Treasurer circulated the budget plan process for the 2013/2014 annual budget. There was consensus that the proposed budget plan process including dates be accepted and sent out to stakeholders.

2012/2013 Ministry of Education Grants

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a comparison of the interim Ministry of Education grants for 2012/2013 and the preliminary grants for 2012/2013. He noted the total enrolment figures have declined 46.69 from the preliminary which represents an approximate \$225,000 decline in revenue. However, it was noted that this amount was moved to funding protection. He also noted that the district is in funding protection at 98.5% of the prior September enrolment, with current funding protection at \$3,006,571.

He reported that the February and May Distance Learning enrolment counts are not in funding protection therefore, if the enrolment declines or increases the district will receive less or more funding respectively.

POLICY COMMITTEE**Draft Policy & Regulation No. 407 – Respectful Workplace**

Trustee Ward provided information on Policy and Regulation No. 407 – Respectful Workplace which has been reviewed by the Committee and is being brought forth for approval.

13/014

WARD-RAINER

THAT Policy and Regulation No. 407 – Respectful Workplace, be read a first and second time; and

THAT a final reading to adopt the policy and regulation be brought forward to the next regular meeting on February 13, 2013.

CARRIED**Vandalism – Year to Date**

The Secretary Treasurer noted that as per Regulation 901.3 – Vandalism, a summary of the cost of vandalism will be reported to the Board annually.

He advised that the total vandalism for the 2011/2012 school year was \$10,755 with over 50% for windows and repairs. The other items were for a variety of repairs on lockers, front doors, buildings and materials.

He also reported that the total vandalism as at December 31, 2012 is \$2,335 with 75% being for window damage and the other for various items.

BUILDING COMMITTEE**Update – Merritt Secondary School Gymnasium**

The Superintendent noted that the gym is now in use and thanked Jim Garfield for all of his work in monitoring and providing direction to the contractor. He also thanked Lyn Price, MSS custodian, for the work that he did on the floor today to ensure the students would be able to play their first basketball games of the season.

The Superintendent also advised that the change rooms are expected to be completed by the end of February.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Swan for Merritt Secondary School, Trustee Ward for SCIDES, and Trustee Comeau for John Allison Elementary School.

Other Reports

Trustee Rainer noted that the Princeton Secondary School Senior girls are hosting a basketball tournament on February 1st and 2nd.

Trustee Comeau noted that he and Trustee Laird will be attending the upcoming BCPSEA AGM on January 24th and 25th

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Elections BC regarding the possible use of school district facilities for the upcoming Provincial Election.

ADJOURNMENT

13/015

LAIRD-RAINER

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer