

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013, 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 following items be added to the agenda:

- Diamond Vale Idol
- Kindergarten registration

13/045

SWAN/LAIRD

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

13/046

SWAN/WARD

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held February 13, 2013, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Diamond Vale Idol

The Superintendent introduced Diamond Vale Elementary School Principal Val Edgell. Ms. Edgell provided an overview of the Diamond Vale Idol competition. She introduced Grade 6 student Nyah Petrovitch who performed 'Someone Like You' by Adele.

The Chairman thanked Ms Edgell for the presentation and congratulated Ms. Petrovitch for her excellent performance.

Kindergarten Registration

The Superintendent introduced Technology Coordinator Jason McAllister who provided information on the district's on-line Kindergarten registration opportunities that are taking place. He noted that the on-line registration will be available for the 2014/2015 school year.

The Superintendent indicated that currently, 54 Kindergarten students are registered which is down from 93 in the 2012 year. He also noted this is the lowest March registration since 2007.

Presentation: Appropriate Touching/Massage in Schools

The Superintendent introduced two members of the Social Emotional Learning Team (SELT) Christine Thygesen and Lynn Slater, as well as Jamara Joyal, a BC Registered Massage Therapist.

Ms. Thygesen provided information on the Massage in Schools pilot project in the Kindergarten class at Merritt Bench Elementary School.

Ms. Joyal pointed out that the purpose of the pilot project is to introduce safe touch to children which helps with the well-being of a child's mental and physical health.

13/047

GAGE/SWAN

THAT the district move forward with the Appropriate Touching/Massage in Schools pilot project at Merritt Bench Elementary School for the 2012/2013 school year; and

THAT a report be brought back to the Board in June on the results of the pilot.

CARRIED

Science Fair

The Superintendent introduced Nicola Canford Elementary School Principal Burt Bergmann who provided an update on the upcoming Science Fair to be held at TRU

on April 4th and 5th. Mr. Bergmann commented on the district's great success over the past years including a number of gold, silver and bronze award winners.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Bergmann for his hard work and dedication to this initiative.

Local Education Agreement (LEA) Update

The Superintendent advised that the LEA has historically been negotiated with the five local bands. However, due to the location and Syilx culture, Upper Nicola Indian Band has negotiated on their own. He noted that currently, an Agreement in Principle has been reached with the exception of one clause.

Field Trips

The Superintendent circulated the list of Superintendent approved field trips for information.

City of Merritt Joint Committees

The City of Merritt has requested Board representatives be appointed to the Joint Use Agreement Committee and a joint committee to look at community health. Chairman Comeau asked that the Secretary Treasurer and Trustee Laird represent the Board on the Joint Use Committee.

Trustee Swan and Trustee Gage both offered to put their names forward for the joint committee on community health.

ACTION ITEM:

The Secretary Treasurer to write a letter to the City indicating committee representatives.

WiFi In Schools

The Secretary Treasurer advised of a recent article in the Kamloops Daily News regarding a Merritt teacher's concerns regarding WiFi in schools. He noted that the district is currently following the advice from Health Canada that low level exposure to radiofrequency (RF) energy from WiFi equipment is not dangerous to the public. He noted that Health Canada continues to conduct ongoing scientific reviews and will take immediate action to revise its guidelines should new convincing scientific evidence arise.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent noted the following events occurring in the district:

- Princeton Secondary School Girls Basketball team placed 3rd in the A provincials in Prince George.
- A Lahal tournament will be held at Coquihalla Middle School on March 14th.

The Superintendent advised of a picture taken and edited by Merritt Secondary School student Alicia McRae which was on the cover of the British Columbia Principals/Vice Principals Association (BCPVPA) magazine. He noted that the district would like to purchase a copy of Ms. McRae's art.

2013/2014 School Calendar

The Superintendent reviewed the results of the proposed 2013/2014 school calendar options. He noted that Option A, which contains a two week spring break, received the most votes.

The Superintendent also stated that the Distance Learning (DL) school will follow the district calendar and cover off summer by rotating staff on vacation.

13/048

SWAN/RAINER

THAT the Board approve Option A for the 2013/2014 school calendar.

CARRIED

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Child Care Amendment Act

The Secretary Treasurer provided information on the recent letter received from the Minister of Education on the proposed *School Act* amendment concerning use of Board property for child care purposes. If passed, Bill 8 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act legislation will amend the *School Act* to require all Boards of Education to establish a policy promoting the use of their property by licensed child care providers between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. This is provided the property is not required for K-12 educational programs, early learning programs, or extracurricular school activities. He noted that currently, the amendment is in the second reading in the Legislative Assembly.

1701 Update

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer provided an update of the 1701 count as of February 15, 2013.

Nicola-Canford Modular Projects Update

The Superintendent provided an update of the recent meeting at Nicola Canford Elementary School with two architects from GHMA, the Building Committee, teacher representatives and the Parent Advisory Council. He reviewed the drawings that were provided from the architect with the different options for the proposed eight modular school.

He noted the district is awaiting final approval for funding from the Ministry of Education.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Recording of Movers and Seconders

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the document regarding the recording of movers and seconders. He noted that the suggestion in the document is the district should not record the movers and seconders of motions.

13/049

GAGE/LAIRD

THAT the report be received

Opposed: Trustees Swan, Ward, Kroeker Laird and Rainer.

Motion Defeated

13/050

LAIRD/WARD

THAT the district implement the change to not recording movers and seconders

CARRIED

2013/2014 Carbon Neutral Capital Program Bylaw

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) Bylaw in the amount of \$9,765. He noted that the purpose of the dollars is to assist school districts in engaging technical expertise to identify CNCP projects for future years.

13/051

LAIRD/SWAN

THAT CNCP Capital Project Bylaw No. 126585 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$9,765 for CNCP Project No. 126585 be read a first, and second time.

CARRIED

It was unanimous that a third reading be held.

13/052

SWAN/RAINER

THAT CNCP Capital Project Bylaw No. 126585 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$9,765 for CNCP Project No. 126585 be read a third time, finally passed and adopted.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Gage for Diamond Vale and Merritt Central Elementary Schools, Trustee Swan for Merritt Secondary and Merritt Bench Elementary Schools, Trustee Ward for SCIDES, Trustee Kroeker for Colletville Elementary School, Trustee Laird for Nicola-Canford Elementary School, Trustee Rainer for Princeton Secondary School and Trustee Comeau for John Allison Elementary School.

Other Reports

Trustee Laird reported on the recent BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch meeting held in West Kelowna.

Trustee Comeau reported on the recent BCSTA Provincial Council meeting held in Vancouver.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer