

**MINUTES**

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013, 6:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:	Acting Chairman	R. Gage
	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

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**AGENDA**

It was requested that Merritt Secondary School Gym Floor under the Building Committee be moved to the Education Committee.

13/163 It was moved and seconded:  
  
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

13/164 It was moved and seconded:  
  
THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 16, 2013, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **Student Trustees**

The Acting Chairman introduced the new student Trustees Emily Maloney and Mackenzie Finch, both from Merritt Secondary School.

Both Ms. Maloney and Ms. Finch stated that it is good opportunity to add a student voice to the Board table.

The Acting Chairman welcomed the student Trustees and thanked them for joining the Board table.

### **IDS Presentation – MSS Students**

Merritt Secondary School teacher Yvonne Lord provided an overview of the Independent Studies Program (IDS). Ms. Lord introduced MSS students Amy MacLaren and Shawn Isaac who provided further detail on the program.

Ms. MacLaren commented on how the course has provided her with increased public speaking and organizational skills. She also noted she is entering a National High School Design Competition and that she has been sponsored by Fabricland in Kamloops.

Mr. Isaac provided the Board with an analysis of the Canucks. He stated he did a review of the different coaching styles of former Canucks coach Alain Vigneault compared to the current coach, John Tortorella.

Ms. MacLaren invited the Board to the final presentation on January 16, 2014. She also noted that a dance student will be providing a choreographed dance program at the final.

The Acting Chairman thanked Ms. MacLaren and Mr. Isaac for their excellent presentation.

### **LEA Update**

The Superintendent provided an update of the current LEA negotiations between Nooaitch, Shackan and Coldwater Bands. He is hopeful the last LEA will be signed off by the end of December.

### **Conayt Lease – Coquihalla Middle School**

The Secretary Treasurer introduced Executive Director for the Conayt Friendship Society, George Girouard.

Mr. Girouard provided information on Conayt's future plans for Coquihalla Middle School. He noted that they are looking at offering a number of building trades programs as well as plans are in place to start a Merritt Dads program.

Mr. Girouard also advised that currently, the Spirit of the Youth (SOY) program is occurring in the mezzanine area and in the gymnasium.

Trustee Rainer inquired which trades Conayt will be offering. Mr. Girouard indicated that electrical, plumbing and carpentry trade programs would be offered.

Trustee Gage questioned if the building is still looked at as an educational institution. Mr. Girouard noted yes, this is correct.

### **Field Trips**

The list of field trips was circulated for review.

13/165

It was moved and seconded:

THAT approval be given for the Merritt Secondary School Outdoor Education field trip to Manning Park on December 16, 2013 be approved, subject to Board policy.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent noted a number of activities occurring in the district including the:

- 100 years of loss banner for residential school history. He noted the district is working at incorporating this into the curriculum.
- Aboriginal language instructors – the district is presently looking at a fluent speaker, unfortunately this person is currently a Band council member.
- Approximately twenty district personnel attended the Culture Camp hosted by Shackan Band with consensus being that it was a very informative event.
- Report cards are due out on the 8<sup>th</sup> for Princeton Secondary, the 15<sup>th</sup> for Merritt Secondary and the 22<sup>nd</sup> for all elementary schools.
- Shortened school days for parent/teacher interviews will be taking place November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Merritt Secondary School Gym Floor**

The Superintendent provided an overview of the issues surrounding the use of Merritt Secondary School gymnasium. He advised the school graduation committee would like to use the gymnasium for the prom.

13/166

It was move and seconded:

THAT this be referred to the Building Committee with a report and recommendations to be brought back to the next meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion:

It was suggested that time be allowed to have consultation with all stakeholders.

13/167

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board cover the \$500 booking deposit to retain the Civic Centre in the event the gym is not used.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **MSP Premium Increase**

The Secretary Treasurer provided information regarding the upcoming Medical Services Plan premium increase to take effect January 1, 2014. He advised the increase will be approximately four percent with the estimated cost to the district of approximately \$15,000. He also noted that MSP is 100% paid by the Board for all regular employees however, it is a taxable benefit for them.

### **Community LINKS**

The Assistant Superintendent provided an overview of the Community LINKS dollars that have been provided to the various schools in the district. The LINKS dollars, totalling \$283,366, are to be used to:

- Establish effective programs which directly support vulnerable students;
- Target Community LINKS funds to vulnerable students;
- Support family and community involvement;
- Promote partnerships and an integrated approach to supporting vulnerable students with families, communities and service providers.

He also informed that our district receives an additional funding in this area in the amount of \$91,998.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Final Reading – Policy No. 507.1 – Discrimination**

It was requested that final reading be postponed on Policy No. 507.1 – Discrimination, until the December meeting in order to have the student Trustees circulate the draft policy to their leadership classes and student councils for feedback.

## **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

### **Nicola-Canford Elementary Update**

The Superintendent provided an update on the Nicola-Canford Modular project. He advised that the concrete work is now complete with work now focusing on the core area wood foundation. He noted the Foreman has indicated the crew is a week ahead of schedule.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Swan for Merritt Secondary School and Merritt Bench Elementary School, Trustee Ward for Vermilion Forks Elementary School, Trustee Rainer for John Allison Elementary School and Trustee Gage for Diamond Vale and Merritt Central Elementary Schools.

### **Other Reports**

Trustee Swan noted the BCCPAC is hosting their conference in Kelowna and asked if the district provides professional development dollars.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

The Secretary Treasurer send a memorandum to school secretaries advising the Board will cover up to \$1,500 per year for professional development opportunities for Parent Advisory Committees.

Ms. Maloney noted that her leadership class is working on action goals. They are working with grades 4 and 6 to help promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Trustee Ward noted she attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Princeton with student Trustees.

Trustee Gage noted he attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Merritt with student Trustees.

Trustee Gage advised he had attended the Provincial Council meeting.

Trustee Gage noted that Rod Goodall, Senior Director, Education for BCSTA is retiring December 2013. He noted that Stephen Hansen, the Executive Director for BCSTA, will be retiring at the end of June 2014. Trustee Swan noted he is on the hiring committee and advised BCSTA would like to have this process completed by the end of December 2013.

**Draft Board Meeting Dates**

There was consensus that the following meeting dates be approved as presented:

February 12, 2014	Princeton
March 12, 2014	Merritt
April 16, 2014	Princeton
May 7, 2014	Merritt
June 11, 2014	Princeton

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and action taken:

- The Career Education Society Newsletter highlighting the school district's Trades Awareness event; and
- A grant received from BC Hydro and Power Authority for \$3,000 towards the upcoming Aboriginal Academy Culture Camp to be held at Glimpse Lake on June 2, 2014.
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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Chairman

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Secretary Treasurer