

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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 MSS gym use be added to the Building Committee and a letter from BCSTA be added to the correspondence.

It was moved and seconded:

13/139 THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

13/140 THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held September 18, 2013, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduction of Student Representatives

The Superintendent provided an overview of the student representatives concept. He noted that two student Trustees will participate in meetings at the south end and two student Trustees will participate at the north end.

Grade 12 Princeton Secondary School students Andrew Silbernagel and Hillary Riel introduced themselves.

Ms. Riel noted she is interested in possibly becoming a teacher in the future and was interested to see the behind-the-scenes working of a school district.

Mr. Silbernagle is interested in helping to bring forward the student voice as well as develop some skills in public speaking.

13/141

It was moved and seconded:

THAT student Trustees receive an iPad and a school district email address.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairman Comeau welcomed the student Trustees and thanked them for coming to join the Board meeting.

Education Changes at Princeton Secondary School

Sandee Blair, Principal for Princeton Secondary School, provided an in-depth overview of how the school has dealt with declining enrolment. Ms. Blair noted that the school currently offers 112 different courses provided by the schools thirteen teachers.

She indicated this is accomplished by appreciative inquiry; multi-graded academic courses; combining different courses into one class; differentiated instruction; blended learning; team professional development; keeping teachers in classes (not non-enrolling roles) and Board support for small classes.

Chairman Comeau thanked Ms. Blair for an excellent and very well explained summary.

FNEC Structure

The Superintendent provided information on the new FNEC structure and the change of name to the Aboriginal Advisory Council (AAC). He noted that the AAC will now consist of two sub groups. The first will be the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) which will deal with the Local Education Agreements and the second group, the Aboriginal Education Council, will focus on all Aboriginal students. He noted that meetings for the AAC will now be conducted quarterly.

13/142

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the new structure for the Aboriginal Advisory Council (AAC) be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Class Size Report

The Superintendent provided an overview of the class size report for the district. He noted this requirement is no longer necessary, however, it provides an overall snapshot of where the district is at. The report indicates that the district's average class size for Kindergarten, grades one to three/four and grades eight to twelve are at the provincial average while grades four to seven are higher than the provincial average.

Enrolment Update

The Superintendent reviewed the preliminary count handout. He highlighted that overall, the district is up 74.2189 FTE from projections and down only 9.5936 FTE compared to last year's actual.

He reported the largest change is at SCIDES which is up 55.375 FTE from projections and up 23 FTE from last year's actual.

Gideons – Re: Rescind Motion of Approval

The Chairman reported that at the previous Board meeting held on September 18, 2013, a motion was made to approve the delivery of consent cards to Grade 5 students in the district. Should the parents sign for consent, the Gideons representative would present the Testament to those students only.

He explained that in order to rescind a motion, no action should have taken place. As no action has been taken the following motion was put forward:

13/143

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board rescind the motion of approval of the Gideon's International in Canada for the delivery of consent cards to Grade 5 students in the district.

Voting Record:

For: Trustees Rainer and Ward

Against: Trustees Gage, Swan, Laird, and Kroeker

MOTION DEFEATED

Chairman Comeau advised the previous motion stands.

School Plans

The Superintendent provided an update on this year's School Plans. He noted that due to the large number of pages, School Plans will be posted on the district's website and each school's website for review rather than including them in the Board package.

He indicated he has requested Principals to report back to the district in February with a summary of where they are at in relation to their School Plans.

The Superintendent requested Board approval of the plans as presented in the public forum.

13/144

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Schools Plans be approved as presented in the public forum.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Field Trips

The list of Superintendent approved field trips was circulated for review.

Superintendent's Report

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

- A \$5,500 grant received at John Allison from Valley First Financial for a young chef program;
- The recent successful visit from the Minister of Education. He added the Minister has heard of the district's First Nations culture camps and indicated he would like to attend;
- The Skills and Trades conference for grades six and seven students saw thirteen trades people participating and explaining their careers to over 150 students. He noted the Minister of Advanced Education spoke at the fair and stated that the skills and trades conference should be done provincially;
- The Aboriginal Welcoming Dinner was a very successful event with an excellent turnout. He noted the highlights were the drummers from Central Elementary School and the singer from Merritt Secondary School;
- Twelve new teachers attended the New Teacher orientation which occurred yesterday, October 15, 2013.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Municipal Pension Plan Rate Increase

The Secretary Treasurer provided a brief overview of the proposed 1.4% increase to the Municipal Pension Plan effective July 1, 2014, which will impact CUPE, First

Nation Support Workers and excluded staff. He advised that the estimated increase in costs would represent approximately \$7,000 per year.

Worksafe BC Rates

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer noted that the industry rate for WorkSafe BC may be increased from \$.55 to \$.60 per \$100 assessable payroll. If this rate increase does come into effect, the cost to the district is estimated at \$6,300 per year.

The district continues to experience a healthy discount on the base rate of approximately 27% bringing the district's net rate to \$.40. This discount is a result of low injury incidents on the job.

MSS Photocopier

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer provided information regarding the purchase of a new photocopier for Merritt Secondary School. The Ricoh Aficio MP9002 is a more robust unit better suited to the high volume of copies made at the high school, which currently is approximately 96,000 copies per month. The existing unit will be located in the library as a backup unit. The cost of this multi-purpose unit is \$17,280, with a per copy price of \$.0061.

13/145

It was moved and seconded:

THAT approval be given for the purchase of a Ricoh Aficio MP9002 photocopier for Merritt Secondary School in the amount of \$17,280.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUILDING COMMITTEE

OH & S Update

The Secretary Treasurer provided a report on the recent District OH&S Committee meeting. He noted that Ken Emmons, District Health and Safety Officer for School District No. 23 Central Okanagan, provided professional development regarding site inspections. The district team performed an in depth review of Merritt Secondary School with particular emphasis on the science wing, automotive shop, wood shop and drama room.

All in all, it was a very productive and informative session. Mr. Emmons commended the staff on the safety practices occurring at Merritt Secondary School.

Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Bylaw No. 126647-02 Revised

The Secretary Treasurer informed that a revised AFG Capital Bylaw has been requested by the Ministry of Education. He noted the total AFG dollars have not changed only the allocation of operating AFG and capital AFG. The allocation was \$200,807 for AFG operating and \$374,883 for AFG capital for a total of

\$575,690, the new allocation is AFG operating \$120,475 and AFG capital \$455,215 for a total of \$575,690.

13/146 It was moved and seconded:

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126647-02 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$455,215 for the Annual Facilities Grant Allocation, be read a first and second time.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There was consensus that a third reading be held.

13/147 It was moved and seconded:

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126647-02 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$455,215 for the Annual Facilities Grant Allocation, be read a third time, finally passed and adopted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicola-Canford Elementary School Modular Update

The Superintendent noted three items of concern regarding the construction of the Nicola-Canford Modular School:

1. An old diesel tank was found buried. He noted it was tested and no diesel was found to contaminate the soil.
2. He advised of the stability of the back bearing wall on the library. He noted the structural engineer will be reviewing it on October 17, 2013, and a recommendation will be brought forward.
3. Finally, he advised of a cul-de-sac and a right-of-way that runs through the parking lot at Nicola-Canford. He noted that the architect is reviewing the drawings.

Trustee Laird suggested speaking with the local MLA.

The Superintendent reported that the foundation framing is almost complete and the contractor is planning on pouring cement this coming Friday, October 18, 2013.

Capital Plan

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the capital plan; he noted the two projects for the district include an HVAC upgrade at Princeton Secondary School and a renovation at Merritt Central Elementary School. He advised the total capital plan equals \$6,000,000.

13/148 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the 2013/2014 Five Year Capital Plan totalling \$6,000,000 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MSS Gymnasium Floor

Trustee Kroeker reported that the use of the gymnasium at Merritt Secondary School has been denied for a number of activities, in particular, student dances.

The Superintendent stated the district recently had the gym floor refinished and the goal is to protect the floor. Allowing outdoor shoes in the gym will quickly diminish the surface.

There was extensive debate on this item.

ACTION ITEM:

It was agreed that the Superintendent research floor protection or other alternatives and bring the information back to the Board for discussion.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Final Reading:

13/149 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the following policies be read a third time, finally passed and adopted:

- Policy No. 506.0 – Violence Threat/Risk Assessment (V.T.R.A.)
- Policy No. 602.3 – French Immersion
- Policy No. 602.13 – Home Education
- Policy No. 605.2 – Student Placement and Reporting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13/150 It was moved and seconded:

THAT Policy No. 507.1 – Discrimination, be read a first time; and

THAT Policy No. 407 – Respectful Workplace, be approved as amended, as there was no change in the intent of the policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There was consensus that Policy No. 507.1 – Discrimination, be brought back to the next Regular meeting for second and final reading, subject to no requests for amendment.

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 Schools, Trustee Kroeker for Collettsville Elementary and Merritt Bench Elementary Schools, Trustee Rainer for John Allison Elementary School and Trustee Comeau for Princeton Secondary School.

FNEC

Trustee Gage noted there will be a budget meeting for the AAC that will be held on October 22, 2013.

Other Reports

Trustee Gage reported on a late motion to the BCSTA Provincial Council. He advised the motion is regarding the three-year term of elected School Trustees. The motion is to increase the current three-year term to a four-year term. He noted that at the annual UBCM convention, it was recommended that a four-year term be supported.

He stated he will be attending the Provincial Council Meeting shortly and wanted discussion on the motion so as to represent the Board's consensus at the meeting.

13/151

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board support the late motion of a four-year term for School Trustees.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Rainer noted that John Allison Elementary recently held a garden celebration which was well attended.

Trustee Gage provided information on the potential construction of an asphalt plant in Merritt and advised the plant will produce hot mix for roadway paving. He specified two major concerns:

1. The location of the plant is in line with the south west prevailing winds that would move the emissions over the city, in line with Merritt Central Elementary, Merritt Secondary School and Coquihalla Gillis House Senior Care facility.
2. The emissions are particulate matter (PM) 2.5 in the smoke and hydrocarbons that produce a noxious odor.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and action taken:

- City of Merritt inviting the School District to the 20th anniversary party of the Aquatic Centre;
- RBC Foundation After-School Grant Project advising Vermilion Forks Elementary School was awarded \$10,000 in seed funding for their program;

- Royal Canadian Legion, George Pearkes - Branch No. 56, requesting District representation at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Veterans Square;
- Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund – announcing that Vermilion Forks Elementary School has been awarded a \$15,000 grant towards the new adventure playground.
- BCSTA letter regarding committee appointments.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Lisa Carleton, Editor for the Similkameen Spotlight, asked if the Student Trustees could vote or bring motions forward.

The Chairman responded that the Student Trustees are not voting members but are able to bring issues forward. In addition, he noted they are able to add items on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer