

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014, 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	T. Kroeker D. Laird D. Rainer G. Swan L. Ward
	Student Trustees	M. Finch
	Superintendent	R. Peacock
	Secretary Treasurer	K. Black
	Assistant Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Lutter

AGENDA

14/008 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

14/009 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held December 11, 2013, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Presentation: MSS Potential Timetable Changes

The Superintendent introduced MSS Vice Principal Karen Goetz who provided information on the research to improve student learning by a potential change to the timetable. This change would include grade eight and nine yearlong courses being

taught by a group of four to six teachers. She noted that the morning session for these yearlong courses would not have bells and would allow for flexibility and integration.

She advised that the timetable is still in the investigation phase and feedback from staff is still occurring.

Kindergarten Assessment Tool

Principal for Student Support Service Jane Kempston provided an in-depth review of the Kindergarten Assessment Tool. She advised the purpose of the assessment tool is to identify areas of need and focus for additional support to Kindergarten classrooms. In addition, it provides a way to measure the effectiveness of our interventions in order to ensure that we are best supporting children and their teachers.

Presentation: Costa Rica Field Trip

Merritt Secondary School teacher Guy Dugas provided an overview of the Costa Rica field trip planned from April 13-22, 2014. He advised that twenty-one students have signed up for the trip, nineteen of which are French immersion students. He informed that the cost estimate remains steady at \$2,291 per person.

04/0010

It was moved and seconded:

THAT approval be given for the Merritt Secondary School Costa Rica Cultural field trip for the period April 13-22, 2014, subject to finalization through the Superintendent.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

District Operation Trends Data

The Superintendent provided an overview of the District Operation Trends data.

He reviewed the following documents:

- Special Education as a percentage of total enrolment 2001/02 to 2012/13
- District Operating expenditure per funded FTE student 2003/04 to 2012/13
- Student enrolment (historical and projected headcount) 1992/93 to 2022/23
- Educators (headcount) 1992/92 to 2012/13
- Educator salaries 1993/94 to 2012/13
- Educator ages 1997/98 to 2012/13
- Average class size BC standard public schools
- Student/Educator ratio 1995/96 to 2012/13
- Student and educator FTEs compared as a percentage of 1995/96 FTEs

Local Education Agreement (LEA)

The Superintendent announced that the district recently signed an LEA with Nooaitch, Coldwater and Shackan Bands for the period June 31, 2013 to July 1, 2016. He noted that Lower Nicola and Upper Nicola Bands currently have an LEA with the District which will expire on June 30, 2015. He reported that all five bands now have signed LEAs with the District.

Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) Course: Heartbeat of the Nicola Valley: Drumming (Proposal)

Merritt Secondary School Vice Principal Karen Goetz provided an overview of the BAA course – Heartbeat of the Nicola Valley.

Trustee Swan inquired if multiple grades could be included rather than just grade eleven. Ms. Goetz noted she would bring this to the group preparing the BAA for discussion.

Strategic Plan

The Superintendent advised that he has been in contact with Ross Spina, former Assistant Superintendent in Kamloops, regarding the Strategic Plan. He noted that the district will set up a time to start the process with Mr. Spina.

Community Literacy Funding

The Assistant Superintendent advised that there are two Community Literacy groups one in Merritt and one in Princeton. As provincial funding still remains \$1.5 million short, Decoda Literacy has requested the district forward letters to the local MLAs to support the present and future funding.

Field Trips

The list of Superintendent approved field trips was circulated for review. It was also noted that sport specific helmets be worn by teachers and chaperones while skiing/snowboarding as supervisors on field trips. Chaperones are expected to be on the slopes supervising students.

The Superintendent provided information regarding the field trip request to Spokane, Washington on May 17-18, 2014 from the Princeton band teacher.

04/011

It was moved and seconded:

THAT approval in principle be given for the Princeton Band trip to Spokane, Washington on May 17-18, 2014, subject to further information being brought forward to the Board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent provided an update on a number of activities occurring in the district. In particular

- Culture camp study session
 - o George Saddleman from the Upper Nicola Band spoke on the TIMX protocol. TIMX is the Aboriginal way of looking after the earth.
- BC School Superintendent Association (BCSSA) Forum on Education
 - o He noted there were twenty-two district participants including three groups of presenters.
- A reminder that the Independent Studies students dinner and presentation is tomorrow, January 16th at 5:30 p.m.

- He discussed the 2014/2015 calendar and noted two options:
 - o Option A: a two-week spring break from March 16-27, 2015
 - o Option B: a two-week spring break from March 23rd to April 2nd. This would tie in with the Easter long weekend and would allow schools to be closed on Monday, November 10th creating a four-day weekend.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Appointment of Auditors

14/012

It was moved and seconded:

THAT McConnell, Voelkl be appointed as the district's auditors for the 2013/2014 school year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BC Hydro – Rate Increase Impact

Assistant Secretary Treasurer Lynn Lutter provided an overview of the proposed impact of the utility rate increases to June 2014. She noted the first increase will be with Fortis Electricity in Princeton at 3.2% effective January 1, 2014 and BC Hydro in Merritt at 9% effective April 1, 2014. The estimated increased cost based on kW consumption for the same period last school year, will be \$5,700. Natural Gas provided by Fortis BC for both Merritt and Princeton has increased the rate per GJ: for small facilities .044% and large facilities (MSS & PSS) at .059% per GJ effective January 1, 2014. The estimated increased cost based on GJ consumption for the same period last school year will be \$5,300.

2013/2014 Ministry of Education Grants

The Secretary Treasurer provided a review of the changes from the preliminary grant figures to the interim grant figures. In particular, he noted that funding protection has decreased from \$2 million to \$1.6 million. He advised that although funding protection has declined, the overall estimated funding has remained constant at \$24,152,307.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Update – Nicola-Canford Modular Project

The Superintendent noted the current building schedule is on track and provided an update on the progress of the Nicola-Canford Modular Project. He noted the block wall at the back of the library is now being torn down.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy No. 204.4 – Public Participation at Board Meetings

The Superintendent advised that Policy 204.4 – Public Participation at Board Meetings, was changed to reflect the current practice.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Swan reported on the recent Merritt Secondary and Merritt Bench Elementary Schools PAC meetings.

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Mackenzie Finch noted the first semester is coming to a close and students are busy preparing for provincial exams. She advised that the pop machines have been a concern for Merritt Secondary School due to the aspartame contained in the diet Pepsi.

Trustee Kroeker reported for Student Trustee Emily Maloney and provided an update on the Actions Schools program at Merritt Central Elementary School. He noted the program deals with two or three leadership class students teaching for 30 minutes on physical activity, mindfulness, healthy eating, positive problem solving, and social skills. He advised the program will be moving over to Diamond Vale Elementary in the coming weeks.

Other Reports

Trustee Ward advised that she and two PAC members were marketing the PAC at a moonlight snowshoe event to a group of thirty ladies.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman noted that Teck Highland Valley Copper recently provided a donation to Merritt Secondary School for the purchase of a new mini bus in the amount of \$25,000.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer