

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014, 6:00 P.M.**

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

AGENDA

14/157 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

14/158 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 14, 2014, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Presentation – Well Being

Health Promoting School Coordinator Terry Strande provided a review of the wellness activities occurring in the district. Ms. Strande provided a list of possibilities for the District to achieve over the next period of time.

Enrolment Update

- **Class Size Report**

The Superintendent provided an overview of the organization of classes for the District.

GRADE	2013/2014 DISTRICT	2013/2014 PROVINCE	2014/2015 DISTRICT
K/1	18.5	19.3	16.5
Gr. 1 – 3/4	21.4	21.5	19.4
Gr. 4 – 7	25.5	25.7	24.9
Gr. 8 – 12	20.1	23.0	19.2

He noted that Merritt Secondary School has two classes with over 30 students, a Music 11 Concert Band class with 33 students and a Physical Education 8 class with 32 students.

Trustees/Student Trustees

The Chairman noted that the role of a Student Trustee is to provide an idea of how students perceive public education. He advised that the goal is to have two Trustees at each end of the district. He noted the structure will be one grade 11 on a two-year term and one grade 12 on a one-year term. In subsequent years, only one Student Trustee will need to be elected, which will provide some continuity with the role.

The Superintendent provided an overview of the selection process for Student Trustees. He advised that Merritt Secondary School has selected Grade 12 student Alison McElveen and Grade 11 student Cohen McCormack, and that Princeton Secondary School has selected Grade 12 student Reuben Howarth and Grade 11 student Zoe Douglas.

The Chairman noted that two of the Board's Trustees will be leaving, Richie Gage and David Laird.

He stated that David Laird served on the Building Committee and the Personnel Committee during his term. He said his expertise on the Building Committee was invaluable with regards to the Nicola Canford Elementary School Modular Project. In addition, he acknowledged Trustee Laird's attendance at numerous personnel meetings in particular the negotiations with both CUPE and the local Nicola Valley and Princeton Teachers Association.

The Chairman noted that Richie Gage has provided a significant dedication to the K-12 sector and the public sector, sitting in roles as teacher, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent of Schools. He became a City Council member and finally a School Trustee for the past 9 years. Chairman Comeau noted one particular focus of commitment was Aboriginal Education. He noted that Trustee Gage was a member of the Aboriginal Advisory Council for the Board, was involved in numerous meetings regarding the Local Education Agreements, and

helped negotiate one of the first Aboriginal Enhancement Agreements for the district.

Strategic Plan Update

The Superintendent provided an overview of the next steps regarding the Strategic Plan implementation. He noted that he would like to hold a meeting with Trustees in January to review the work completed to date.

Field Trips

The November 19, 2014 list of Superintendent approved field trips was circulated.

14/159

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Merritt Secondary School field trip to Manning Park on June 3-5, 2015, be approved subject to Board policy.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Superintendent advised that the Princeton Secondary School band trip to Seattle will be brought forward in December.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent updated Trustees on a number of activities occurring in the district. In particular:

- Student Trustee selection process at Merritt Secondary School;
- BCSSA/BCASBO Fall Conference attended by Principals and district staff
- Welcome Dinner for First Nations Education;
- The Learning Improvement Fund process and the allocation of \$440,762 for staff to address learning need and class composition concerns
- Remembrance Day Trustees and students laying the wreaths in Merritt and Princeton
- Nicola-Canford welcoming and opening starts at 4:30 pm tomorrow

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Telephone Replacement Plan

The Secretary Treasurer provided an update on the district telephone replacement plan and noted that the district has an Request for Proposals out focusing on three district sites, SCIDES, Princeton Secondary School and Merritt Central Elementary School. He noted that the phone systems are all 18-20 years old and replacement parts have become an issue. In addition, he noted the new phone systems will have the capability to move to VOIP once upgrades are done to the TELUS network.

He reported that the new system will be a combination of digital and analog, but will have the capability to become digital once the fibre optics and TELUS network are in place.

Collettsville Gym

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the Collettsville gym has been fully operational since October 6, 2014. He noted the insurance agent is currently pursuing reimbursement of the \$10,000 deductible paid by the district in addition to the full cost of the repairs which sits at approximately \$190,000.

Riverside Roof

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the roof replacement at Riverside is currently in process and noted the work is on schedule to be completed by the end of next week. He reported the quote for the replacement was \$143,131.80. The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen has a bylaw of \$95,000 and operating funds of \$15,000. He further noted that the District will loan \$33,131.80 to the RDOS with a payment plan to be put in place.

Lindley Creek Road

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the letter sent from the Board to the City of Merritt council regarding sidewalks in the Collettsville area. He inquired if the Board would like to resubmit the letter along with a request to have the truck access moved from Lindley Creek Road to Midday Valley Road.

It was suggested that the Board meet with the new Council to discuss opportunities for shared services and collaboration.

ACTION ITEM:

The Secretary Treasurer to resubmit the original letter along with a portion discussing the moving of the Tolko truck access from Lindley Creek Road to Midday Valley Road.

Allison Flats

The Chairman advised that Allison Flats was deeded to the school district many years ago. He noted that a child was injured on the playground approximately one month ago.

The Chairman stated that he and the Secretary Treasurer will be meeting with the Town to go over the lease which indicates the Town is responsible for maintaining and replacing the playground equipment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

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

Other Reports

Trustee Rainer reported of the Princeton doctor situation and how attracting and retaining doctors to small towns can be difficult. He noted that he, along with Princeton Secondary School Principal Sandee Blair, attended a meeting with the Princeton Health Care Steering Committee and provided an update around the numerous activities occurring in the south end for the district.

Trustee Swan noted that Michael Roberts has been selected as the new CEO for the BCSTA and will begin his new role on December 1, 2014.

Trustee Gage spoke on his role as Provincial Councillor for the BCSTA and advised about the presentation from Rod Allen regarding the BC Education Plan. He informed that a significant shift has occurred to include trades in the BC Education Plan.

He also spoke to the motion submitted by School District No. 58 to remove the freeze on Exempt Staff salaries. He advised the motion was passed after amendments, and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

Board Meeting Dates

The following dates were discussed for upcoming Board meetings:

January 14 – Merritt

February 18 – Princeton

March 11 – Merritt

April 15 – Princeton

May 13 – Merritt

June 10 – Princeton

There was consensus to bring the proposed meeting dates back to the next meeting for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer