

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	G. Ellingsen B. Jepsen T. Kroeker D. Rainer L. Ward
	Student Trustees	C. McCormack A. McElveen
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Secretary Treasurer	K. Black
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Lutter

AGENDA

15/045 It was moved and seconded:
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

15/046 It was moved and seconded:
THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held February 18, 2015, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NVPTU Presentation

The Secretary Treasurer introduced NVTU President Peter Vogt who introduced a number of members of the public supporting his presentation.

Mr. Vogt noted the Union was at the meeting tonight to explain why they believe a separate LGBTQ policy is important.

He noted that research suggests that acknowledging sexual orientation and gender identity issues reduces bullying and discrimination, lowers suicide rates, and results in students developing a positive attitude towards themselves.

Mr. Vogt noted that an LGBTQ policy would complement the District's discrimination policy already in place. He also noted he has provided a number of policies that other districts have in place as templates and that the Union looks forward to working with or providing support or advice to the Board on developing an LGBTQ policy.

Mr. Vogt introduced Andre Cote, a teacher at Collettsville Elementary School. Mr. Cote provided history of his own growing up and the challenges that he overcame and noted that it is important to make the school safe.

The Chairman thanked the Mr. Vogt for their presentation and indicated that the Board would add this item to the Policy Committee.

Presentation: SCIDES Update

The Superintendent introduced Principal for Kengard Learning Centre (KLC) Colleen Mullin. Ms. Mullin provided an overview of KLC which includes South Central Interior Distance Education School (SCIDES), Community Learning Centre (CLC) which runs an Alternate school and a Continuing Education school (CE). Ms. Mullin delivered an in depth report on the many activities occurring at KLC.

2015/2016 School Calendar

The Superintendent reviewed the 2015/2016 school calendar.

15/047

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the 2015/2016 school calendar be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Kindergarten Registration

The Superintendent provided a snap shot as of March 10, 2015, for Kindergarten enrolment. He noted that the district has 70 current registrations compared to 83 in the previous year. He advised that the projected enrolment for September 2015 is 134 compared to 128 actual from September 2014.

LEA Update

The Superintendent advised that there is ongoing discussion regarding melding the three current LEAs into one LEA. He noted that while this may not occur, there is

some potential to have a hybrid type model whereby the common elements are shared equally and the Band specific items could be broken out. He advised that a meeting is set with Lower Nicola Indian Band on March 30, 2015 and Upper Nicola on April 13, 2015.

Science Fair

The Superintendent advised that the science fair will take place on April 9th at TRU and also noted judges are needed.

Field Trips

15/048 It was moved and seconded:

THAT approval be given to Merritt Bench Elementary School Outdoor Education field trip to Silver Lake Camp on May 19 – 21, 2015, subject to Board policy regarding activities and supervision.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Superintendent provided information regarding the Merritt Secondary School Authentic Language and Cultural Immersion field trip to Quebec at spring break in 2016. He noted that further information requesting approval in principle will be brought forward to the Board.

15/049 It was moved and seconded:

THAT final approval be given for the Merritt Secondary School World War I field trip to Belgium, France and London, subject to Board policy, appropriate medical insurance and a code of conduct is in place for all adults attending.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent advised of the following activities occurring in the district:

- Christine Perkins from Squamish has been hired as the new Assistant Superintendent beginning August 1, 2015;
- The district's new web page is now up and running;
- The District Technology Coordinator will now be providing a "Tech Talk" newsletter every two months;
- Nicola-Canford has entered into BC Green Games with a project focused on gardening – Trustees are encouraged to vote for their project;
- FSA scoring has been completed with eighteen teachers coming forward;
- A thank-you to the Union and the local Pro-d committee for their work with the spring institute preparation;
- Residential schools presentations took place across the district with over 700 students taking part;

- Willy Sellers came through the schools to provide information for students on his writing and most recent book Dipnetting with Dad; and
- Wellness grants submitted by Terry Strande were received from Dash BC.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Maintenance Update

The Operations Manager provided an update on various maintenance projects occurring in the district.

BUDGET

Annual Budget Survey Update

The Secretary Treasurer advised the budget survey is now on the district webpage and will be accessible until April 17, 2015. He noted that currently, 29 people have completed the survey.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Jepsen for Diamond Vale Elementary Schools, Trustee Ward for Vermilion Forks Elementary School, Trustee Kroeker for Colletville Elementary School and SCIDES, Trustee Rainer for John Allison Elementary School.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee McCormack and Student Trustee McElveen reported on the various activities occurring at Merritt Secondary School.

Other Reports

Chairman Comeau noted that Trustee Rainer competed in the staff vs. grads hockey game in Princeton.

Trustee Rainer noted that he attended the recent BCSTA Provincial Council (PC) meeting in Vancouver.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Ministry of Education advising of a \$5,000 grant for the Skills Training Access Support for School-Aged Secondary Students.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary Treasurer