

**MINUTES**

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	G. Ellingsen B. Jepsen D. Rainer G. Swan
	Student Trustees	R. Chhabra C. McCormack
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	C. Perkins
	Secretary Treasurer	K. Black
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Lutter

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**AGENDA**

15/139 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

15/140 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 7, 2015, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **Presentation: Sagebrush Agri Park Society**

The Secretary Treasurer introduced Malcolm Lynn, President of Sagebrush Agri Park Society. Mr. Lynn provided an update of his proposal for an equine training school at the Nicola Lake Elementary school site. He noted the plans would be to have an aqua therapy pool for horses on the site. In addition, a vet clinic would be incorporated into one of the two classrooms, and a blacksmiths shop. He informed that a twenty stall barn would be built to house the horses.

Mr. Lynn noted funding would come from both the provincial and federal governments. He further noted that Sagebrush Agri Park Society has their funding in place and would like to begin negotiations for a lease with the district.

Mr. Lynn advised that a business plan is currently being drafted and would be provided to the district.

Chairman Comeau noted that once the business plan is received, senior staff would review it and provide an update to the Board for a determination

### **Presentation: Safe Schools Update**

The Assistant Superintendent advised that she and Princeton Secondary School Principal Patrick Kaiser had attended the Safe School Conference. She provided information on a number of topics that were covered. She advised that the District Emergency Preparedness Committee is currently working on a draft policy, with the assistance of communication with the RCMP and the Fire Department.

### **Enrolment Update**

The Superintendent noted the district is up 101 students from projections and up approximately 50 students from the prior September. He also provided an update on the district class size with comparisons to the provincial average.

A question was raised regarding a radio announcement that Merritt Secondary School's student population was up and no additional teachers were added.

The Superintendent noted that Merritt Secondary School is down in numbers. He will be speaking with the Local President to provide him with the correct information from the district.

### **Ministry Update**

The Superintendent advised of the upcoming two non-instructional days related to the new curriculum implementation. He noted the district will be sending 15 teachers to the regional training.

**Field Trips**

The list of Superintendent approved field trips was circulation for information.

**Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent provided an update on the following activities in the district:

- Looking at developing a District PAC;
- First Culture Camp will be held at Coldwater Band;
- Michael Bartollo, a motivational speaker, will discuss discrimination and harassment;
- The We Day trip to Vancouver with Collettsville Elementary School and Merritt Secondary School students attending;
- Lahal tournament for all grade six students
- Dr. Lee Brown;
- Parent night at the civic centre.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer provided information and a recommendation for the purchase of a photocopier to replace the machine at John Allison Elementary.

15/141

It was moved and seconded:

THAT approval be given for the purchase of a Ricoh MP 6002 photocopier for John Allison Elementary School in the amount of \$12,462.68.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**POLICY COMMITTEE****Draft Policy No. 508 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion**

The Superintendent noted this policy was brought forward to the Board for first reading at the October 7, 2015 Board meeting and subsequently, the following day the Ministry provided extensive guidelines. He noted that the amendments have been incorporated in the policy for the second reading.

15/142

It was moved and seconded:

THAT draft Policy No. 508 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion, be read a second time and sent out to stakeholders for review.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Revised Policy No. 507.1 – Discrimination**

15/143

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Policy No. 507.1 – Discrimination be read a first time and sent out to stakeholders for review.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairman Comeau clarified that stakeholders will be notified of the policy through an e-mail process.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Jepsen for Merritt Central Elementary Schools, Trustee Swan for Merritt Secondary School and Merritt Bench Elementary School, Trustee Ellingsen for Nicola-Canford Elementary School, Trustee Rainer for Vermilion Forks Elementary School and Trustee Comeau for John Allison Elementary School.

**Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee McCormack reported that the grad theme at Merritt Secondary School for 2016 will be 'Hollywood'. He noted that the Junior Girls volleyball team raised \$200 for breast cancer, which was the requirement in order to attend a tournament.

Student Trustee Chhabra reported that the core French students are planning a Quebec French trip. He noted that a movie night will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> and a fundraiser on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Reports**

Trustee Rainer reported on the Provincial Council meeting held in October. The main topics of discussions were the wage freeze, MyEd BC and the new curriculum implementation.

**Meeting with Local Chiefs**

The Superintendent confirmed that a meeting has been set with the five local Band Chiefs for January 18, 2016, at the House of Honor from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Meeting with the City of Merritt**

The Secretary Treasurer confirmed that a meeting has been set with the City of Merritt Council in the council chambers on January 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Remembrance Day**

There was consensus that Trustee Swan and Student Trustee McCormack will represent Merritt at the Remembrance Day ceremony.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from Alex Attal, Executive Vice-President of Fijitsu America acknowledging the concerns of Boards of Education regarding the new MyEducation BC system.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary Treasurer