

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow on the Traditional Territories of the Nleʔkepmux and Syilx

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	E. Hoisington B. Jepsen J. Chenoweth L. Ward G. Swan
	Student Trustees	N. Willey
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	B. Ross
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Executive Assistant	S. Blonde

AGENDA

19/107 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the revised agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

19/108 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the amended minutes of the Regular meeting held June 12, 2019, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEES

The Assistant Superintendent introduced returning Student Trustee Nicolas Willey and new Student Trustee Kassie Moyes.

Revision to Agenda

Item 7a has been moved to the top of the agenda to accommodate the audit team from BDO Canada LLP.

2018/2019 Audited Financial Statements

The Secretary Treasurer presented a memo and the draft form of the 2018/2019 audited financial statements. Aidan Northcott from BDO Canada LLP provided a presentation of the financial statements highlighting an increase in assets. All comparison of budget actuals are in great standing and some were under budget. There is a planned deficit to spend down the budget surplus.

19/109

It was moved and seconded

THAT the final 2018/2019 Audited Financial Statements for School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Presentation: Merritt Secondary Therapy Dog Program

Assistant Superintendent Aziz introduced Principal Slanzi who presented on Merritt Secondary School's Therapy Dog Program. Tippy, a certified therapy dog, has been working full-time at Merritt Secondary, helping vulnerable students in the Serenity Room. Tippy has built a rapport with students, soothing, calming and decreasing anxiety in social interactions. Tippy has helped overcome barriers and has opened inclusion for many students.

Field Trips

19/110

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the following field trips be approved:

Merritt Secondary School's Senior Music students to Calgary, Alberta on May 27, 2020 – May 30, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED

Provincial / District Update

The Superintendent updated the Board on Provincial and District priorities.

Ministry priorities include the Funding Model Review, curriculum, grad program, career strategy, early learning and childcare, BC Tripartite Agreement, children and youth in care, mental health in schools, and the framework for enhancing student success.

District priorities include Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow, well-being, knowing our students, Literacy / Numeracy 2021 engagement, strategic planning, District Assessment Plan, and Local Education Agreements.

Preliminary Enrolment

The Superintendent discussed the District's preliminary enrolment for the 2019-2020 school year. He noted that Elementary and Secondary preliminary enrolment totals are very similar to last school year at this time. The overall count is down by 17 students this year. More accurate enrolment numbers will be provided after the end of September. There have been minimal staffing adjustments due to enrolment such as small additions at Merritt Secondary and Princeton Secondary to support enrolment and scheduling options, and an additional primary class at Merritt Central to support learning.

Update on Smoking / Vaping and the Use of Smokeless Tobacco Products

The Superintendent distributed a memo and discussed the impact on vaping. Principals have been asked to communicate with parents and students using materials provided by Interior Health on the topic.

19/111

It was moved and seconded:

TO present a motion to ask BC School Trustees Association to urge the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Health Authorities:

To make resources for youth on Vape Health Implications and Vape Cessation widely available, and

To revise current resources and services for Smoking Cessation to specifically include Vaping and Youth.

MOTION CARRIED

Local Education Agreement Negotiations

The Superintendent circulated a memo and updated the Board on the productive and positive meetings that have taken place with the communities of Shackan Indian Band, Nooiatch Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band and Upper Nicola Indian Band. The topics of discussion have been education assessment and placement, vulnerable student placement, children in care, Dogwood graduation, educational resources and programming, guiding principles, purpose, responsibilities and commitments. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2019.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent circulated a Superintendent's Report and informed on the following activities happening in the district:

- Year-end activities
- Logger Sports Show
- John Allison Elementary Playground opening success
- Visit to Nooiatch Indian Band
- Nicola Valley Princeton District Teachers' Union joint socials and welcome back to staff events
- Maintenance / Custodians / Bus Drivers acknowledgement of summer work
- District Parent Advisory Council meeting on September 17, 2019
- Strategic Plan and District Assessment Plan activities to invite opinions
- Supporting inclusion – IEP meeting and forms

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Summer Projects

The Operations Manager provided a memo and two Daily Dispatch newsletters from Clean Air Services. He updated the Board on the projects that took place around the District during the summer months. The projects include a playground at John Allison Elementary, HVAC cleaning at Merritt Bench Elementary, Collettville Elementary, Diamond Vale Elementary and South Central Interior Distance Education School, painting, fencing, new District phone system, office work at South Central Interior Distance Education School, and more work to be undertaken in September and October of 2019. The capital projects that have been completed are new LED lighting, the purchase of a skid steer (Bobcat), a new pick-up truck has been purchased for the Princeton area and the Long Range Facility Plan start-up meeting. Three of the five newly purchased busses have arrived.

Long Range Facility Plan

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer provided a memo to the Board and discussed the long range facility plan updates. Bill Lowe and Judy Shoemaker of Cascade Facilities Management Consultants LTD., based out of Langley, BC, have been hired to assist the District in delivering a long range facility plan. The initial start-up meeting took place on August 28, 2019 with a presentation package and a facilities tour of Merritt. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019 which will include a facilities tour of Princeton.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Carry Forward Targeted Funds

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo and letter addressed to the Minister of Education to be signed by the Board Chair. She discussed the requirement to carry forward the Targeted Funds for the 2019/2020 School Year.

19/112

It was moved and seconded

THAT the underexpenditure of the 2018/2019 targeted Aboriginal funds in the amount of \$40,356 be carried forward to the 2019/2020 school year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

POLICY COMMITTEE

Trustee Code of Conduct

The Superintendent distributed a memo outlining three examples from other districts of a Trustee Code of Conduct policy. After review and discussion, the Policy Committee will meet to begin development of a similar policy for the District.

Revised Field Trip Policy

The Superintendent distributed a memo and revised draft 603.2 Field Trip Policy. If moved, the draft policy will be sent to Principals, Parent Advisory Councils and placed on the District website for feedback.

19/113

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the following draft policy be read for a first time:

- 603.2 Field Trip Policy

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Reports

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on Collettsville Elementary and Kengard Learning Centre.

Trustee Jepsen reported on Diamond Vale Elementary and Merritt Central Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola-Canford Elementary.

Trustee Ward reported on Princeton Secondary.

Trustee Comeau reported on John Allison Elementary and the District Parent Advisory Council

Student Trustee Selection

Returning Student Trustee Willey was welcomed back to the Board from Merritt Secondary School. New Student Trustee Moyes has joined the Board from Merritt Secondary School.

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Willey reported on recent events at Merritt Secondary School. Boy soccer Grades 8-12 have 20 players. They will be playing in Pemberton and Hope soon. The cross-country ski team has six members. A Muay Thai team has drawn interest. Both boys and girls volleyball teams have not had a game yet. Hallway monitors from Grade 12 have been signed up to help pay for grad fees. Link Leaders training took place in the summer. The leaders helped transition Grade 8 students to the school. A Big Buddy Program is connecting with at-risk students from Merritt Central Elementary. WeCare has a Terry Fox project underway along with Walk for Water and Hope for Hunger events.

Other Reports

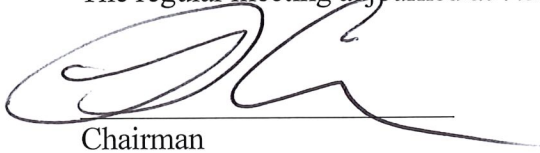
The Board Chair reported that the District will be meeting with the Town of Princeton on October 1, 2019 to discuss wildlife, transportation and the possible sale of property. He also reminded the Board of the upcoming Thompson Okanagan Branch meeting on October 4-5, 2019.

Correspondence

The Board Chair distributed a letter from the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) regarding the renewal of the Board's membership of the association for 2019/2020. There was no increase to the membership fees due to a BCSTA budget surplus.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary Treasurer