

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

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*Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow on the Traditional Territories of the Nle?kepmux and Syilx*

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	E. Hoisington B. Jepsen J. Chenoweth L. Ward D. Rainer
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	B. Ross
	Operations Manager	D. Finnigan
	Executive Assistant	S. Blonde

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**AGENDA**

19/122 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

19/123 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held September 18, 2019, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **Presentation – Dave Finch Field Trip to Belize**

Assistant Superintendent Aziz introduced Mr. Finch, a teacher at Merritt Secondary School, who presented on a 2-week field trip to Placencia, Belize in March 2021. Four students, Sujan Lali, Beckett Finch, Katie Klassen, and Isabelle Heard spoke with Mr. Finch on how the students will stay in a compound through the Projects Abroad Canada program. The students and 3 chaperones will learn about a new country and culture, collect data, clean reefs, and dive and snorkel. The approximate cost for each student will be \$5,000 which will include airfare, their stay at the Project Abroad Canada compound, meals, and tours. The students plan to fundraise for the trip. This opportunity is currently open to all Merritt Secondary Grade 10 and Grade 11 students to sign-up for.

19/124

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the board approve in principle for a Merritt Secondary School 2-week field trip to Placencia, Belize in March 2021.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Presentation – John Allison Elementary School**

Superintendent McNiven introduced Principal Lawrence who presented on the new playground at John Allison Elementary School. Principal Lawrence displayed photos and videos of the students playing on the new equipment. He described process of choosing the layout and thanked the board for their assistance in obtaining the government grant and thanked the maintenance team for installing the equipment. Principal Lawrence also touched on the success of this year's tradition harvest at John Allison Elementary School garden.

### **Field Trips**

There are no new field trips to report.

### **Strategic Planning Process / District Enhancing Learning Plan**

The Superintendent distributed a memo regarding the planning activities that are currently underway for the Strategic Plan and the District Enhancement Learning Plan. In addition to the overview of the work completed to date, the Superintendent would like the Board's feedback on the timeline for Strategic Plan development and if the Board would like to review the District Vision, Values and Mission.

The Board decided on a completion timeline of late March / early April 2020 with a roll-out date to be the start of the new school year in 2020. It was also decided that the Strategic Plan has great content but a refresh to condense the Strategic Plan to be able to communicate it effectively is needed.

### **Local Education Agreement Negotiations**

The Superintendent provided a memo and discussed that that all five communities have provided input and that the draft Local Education Agreement has been reviewed in its' entirety. Productive meetings occur approximately every two weeks with three outstanding items to discuss and finalize. Once the remaining items have been discussed, a draft copy will be provided to each community involved and to the Board of Education for review and approval.

### **Community Meeting Dates (City of Merritt / Local Chiefs)**

The Superintendent distributed a memo and requested the Board consider and set dates for community meetings with Local Chiefs, the Town of Princeton and the City of Merritt. It was decided to reach out to the City of Merritt to see if there are any outstanding topics to discuss. There is a meeting scheduled for October 29, 2019 with the Town of Princeton to discuss wildlife concerns with Conservation Officers. A meeting with local Chiefs will be set for January 2020.

### **Youth Advisory Committee**

The Superintendent discussed the City of Merritt's request for a Youth Advisory Committee. It is hoped that a School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) Trustee would be willing to sit on the City Youth Advisory Committee, in a non-voting, advisory capacity. The committee will be made up of seven voting members; Persons from 16-24 years old, with two members for Merritt Secondary School, one member from the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and four 'At Large' positions. The Committee will also be supported by a member of City Council, a School Board Trustee, and a staff Committee Clerk.

The Board agreed that more information is needed before Trustees are able to confirm a seat on the Youth Advisory Committee with the City of Merritt.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

- Nicola-Canford Elementary's opening of the new Traditional Outdoor Calming Space
- Localizing Truth and Reconciliation
- Do you feel welcome at school?
- Professional Learning: Two great activities making a difference
- Thank-you to First Nations Support Workers
- Celebration of World Teacher Day
- Enhancing Student Learning Framework
- Supporting Inclusion
- Everyone makes a difference



## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Surveillance Cameras (Exterior)**

The Superintendent circulated a memo and discussed the potential installation of surveillance cameras in the District's investment in outdoor learning spaces. This request is in a pro-active response to previous vandalism at schools. An overview of the process for installing exterior cameras was provided by the Operations Manager. The prospective locations for installation are at Collettsville Elementary, Nicola-Canford Elementary, John Allison Elementary, Merritt Central Elementary, Merritt Secondary, and Princeton Secondary. The Operations Manager confirmed that he would internally view the recordings if vandalism occurs.

19/125

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Operations Manager investigate and report back to the Board with the cost and the source of surveillance systems as well as confirm the legalities of school surveillance focussing on the security of students and families.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Menstrual Products in Schools**

The Operations Manager distributed a memo and discussed ministerial order from Minister Rob Fleming, requiring all B.C. public schools to provide stigma-free access to free menstrual products for students in school washrooms. The District has placed a provincial school bulk order to be delivered mid-late November. All Secondary School female washrooms will have a free-to-use dispenser and every elementary school will have one female washroom with a free-to-use dispenser.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Revised Field Trip Policy**

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

19/126

It was moved and seconded:

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

- 603.2 Field Trip Policy

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Trustees would like item 6h of the policy revised to include the use of marijuana in the phrase “The consumption of alcohol and/or consumption of illegal drugs by supervisors for the duration of the field trip is strictly prohibited.”

### **Annual Policy Reviews**

The Assistant Superintendent discussed the importance of reviewing certain policies on an annual basis. A list has been created of policies that need to be reviewed on an annual, bi-annual and every 5-year basis.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **Trustee Reports**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Rainer reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

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.

### **BC School Trustees Association Thompson Okanagan Branch Report**

Trustee Ward reported on the October 4-5, 2019 BC School Trustees Association Thompson Okanagan Branch meeting held in Summerland.

### **Town of Princeton Meeting**

The Board Chair discussed the meeting with the Board and the Town of Princeton. At the meeting on October 1, 2019, there was discussion on wildlife, bussing and the potential sale of Allison Flats property. Conservation Officer Tyler Kerr was not able to attend the scheduled meeting. A meeting with the Board, Conservation Officers, and the Town of Princeton is scheduled for October 29, 2019.

### **Non-Sexist Environment Communique**

The Board Chair read a statement that the Board of Education of School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) will not tolerate the verbal or written expression of sexism.

**Other Reports**

The Board would like to acknowledge Teacher Robert French in-person at the November 13, 2019 Board meeting in Merritt.

**CORRESPONDENCE****Letter from MLA Stone on Surging Youth Vaping Rates**


The Board Chair distributed a letter from the Kamloops South-Thompson MLA Todd Stone regarding the surge of youth vaping rates. MLA Stone is requesting the Board to write a letter of concern to Health Minister Adrian Dix urging him to take action on this issue.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD****Public Consultation – Allison Flats Property**

A consultation was open for discussion with the public to discuss the potential sale of Allison Flats property in Princeton. There were no questions or suggestions from the public on this topic.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Chairman  
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Secretary Treasurer