

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SECONDARY SCHOOL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, 6:11 P.M.**

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

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

AGENDA

20/107 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the revised agenda be approved as presented. Item 7a has been moved to item 4 on the agenda to accommodate the audit team from BDO Canada LLP.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Board Chair Gordon Comeau has decided to step down as the Board Chair, however he will continue with his role as Trustee for the Princeton area with School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen). The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for the position of Chairperson.

20/108 It was moved and seconded:

THAT Trustee Swan be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Secretary Treasurer declared Trustee Swan elected as the acclaimed Board Chairperson. As Trustee Swan has departed his role as Vice-Chair of the Board, the Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

20/109 It was moved and seconded:

THAT Trustee Comeau be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Secretary Treasurer declared Trustee Comeau elected as the acclaimed Board Vice-Chairperson.

Trustee Swan assumed the position of Chair.

Vice-Chair Comeau thanked the Board for its support during his 34-year tenure as Board Chair. Newly elected Board Chair Swan congratulated Vice-Chair Comeau on his long-standing position and thanked him for his outstanding service as Board Chair.

MINUTES

20/110 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the revised minutes of the Regular meeting June 10, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements

The Secretary Treasurer presented a memo and the draft form of the 2019/2020 audited financial statements and introduced Mario Piroddi from BDO Canada LLP who provided a presentation of the financial statements highlighting a stable financial year. He reviewed dollars spent on capital projects, the overall consolidated deficit and surplus dollars, a decrease in assets and the approval to transfer unrestricted reserve funds.

20/111

It was moved and seconded

THAT the final 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements, including the transfer of \$3,493,546 on Unrestricted Operating Fund surplus to the Local Capital Reserve, as presented for School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Stage 2 – Return to School Update Presentation

The Superintendent provided a memo and presented on the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings and provided an overview of the preparations and implementations of Stage 2 September Start-Up including health and safety protocols, learning support, well-being, enrolment and attendance and priorities. He believes it has been a positive start to the school year amidst the fluid pandemic situation.

Provincial / District Update Presentation

The Superintendent circulated a memo and presented an update on the Provincial and District priorities. Provincial topics included mental health, curriculum and learning resources, early learning and childcare, BC Tripartite Education Agreement and the framework for enhancing student learning. The District priorities included mental health and well being, summer institute, strategic plan, enhancing student learning plans, Literacy 20/21, post secondary support and the Aboriginal Education Agreement and Local Education Agreement.

Field Trip Protocol and Update

The Assistant Superintendent provided Trustees with a memo and discussed the need to update the District Field Trip Handbook to reflect current health and safety protocols during the pandemic.

Updates to the handbook include:

- Provide a COVID-19 operating plan
- Clean hands before riding bus and before returning to school
- Bus seating arrangements
- No travel outside of cohort
- Removing parent volunteers for driving
- Volunteers must be trained and adhere to safety guidelines
- The use of personal vehicles
- Ability to remove masks when outdoors and socially distanced, out of cohort
- Ensuring field trip numbers align with Provincial Health Order guidelines
- Outdoor field trip locations preferred
- Risk assessment
- No overnight field trips
- All international field trips cancelled until further notice
- Hand sanitizer and face masks added to all first aid kits

Local Education Agreement Update

The Superintendent distributed a memo and confirmed that the Local Education Agreement has been signed by all five local First Nations Communities. Trustees acknowledged this important agreement and the relationship between the District and the local First Nations Communities.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent circulated a Superintendent's Report and informed on the important work the District has been working on:

- Health and Safety

Acknowledgments to all staff for their continued support and ongoing work with new health and safety protocols. Particular appreciation to the operations staff for their dedication and work at each school.

- Supporting Bus Safety

A reminder that busses are operating and to stop when bus lights and stop signs are activated.

An increase in student safety through the implementation of Mtransport.

- Summer Institute

With health and safety protocols in place, staff were able to complete professional learning with online and local cultural activities.

Joint Professional Learning Committees in Princeton and Merritt acknowledged for their support.

- Welcome Back to Students

Approximately 91% face to face attendance

Neighbourhood schools supporting students with complex learning/health needs.

SCIDES connecting with families for remote learning.

Families who are undecided on returning to face to face learning can receive support.

- Mental Health

Support for well-being very important.

SD58 website up to date with helpful provincial and local pandemic information links.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2020/21 Annual Capital Plan

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo regarding the 2020/21 Capital Plan. The Ministry of Education has approved the removal of the flooring and washroom upgrades to the SCIDES building and approved funding of \$210,000 to the CMS Roofing Replacement Project.

20/112 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Capital Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSE58-02 be read for a first and second time.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

20/113 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Capital Bylaw No. 2020/2021-CPSE58-02 be read for a third time, finally passed and adopted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Summer Maintenance Projects

The Operations Manager provided a memo and presented the board with a summary of projects that took place around the District over the summer months.

- Playground at Nicola-Canford Elementary is complete
- HVAC cleaning at Nicola-Canford Elementary, Merritt Central Elementary, Vermilion Forks Elementary, and John Allison Elementary is complete
- Paint at Diamond Vale Elementary, Merritt Secondary, and Merritt Central Elementary is complete
- Fire alarm panel upgrades complete at the Merritt board office, Collettville Elementary, and SCIES is complete
- All schools' exterior doors will have fob access
- Flooring upgrades to Merritt Secondary, Bench Elementary, Princeton Secondary and Vermilion Forks Elementary is complete
- LED lighting at Merritt Secondary is complete
- Siphoning urinals at Collettville Elementary, Merritt Secondary, and Merritt Central Elementary will be replaced by winter break
- Water and sprinkler backflow protection service to Vermilion Forks Elementary and John Allison Elementary is complete
- Bus cameras updated to the new stop arm and license plate readers
- Technology infrastructure upgrades

- Pickup truck replacement for Merritt
- Sprinkler install for SCIDES portable
- Outdoor classrooms at Merritt Central Elementary and Nicola-Canford Elementary to be tendered out and constructed by spring 2021

Trustee Ward left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Operations – Stage 2 Support

The Superintendent provided a memo and the Operations Manager provided the board with an update on the Stage 2 support being delivered by the operations staff (maintenance department, custodians, and bus drivers). The Operations Manager indicated that the return to schools in June 2020 provided the maintenance team an opportunity to get a head start on health and safety needs for the return to schools in September 2020.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Safe Return to Class Fund

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo and Deputy Minister's Bulletin regarding the Safe Return to Class Fund. The District will receive \$433,896 for the September allocation and the allocation for the second distribution in December is still to be announced. She suggested ways to use this funding; On learning resources and supports, health and safety, transportation and before and after school childcare.

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 receive Ministerial approval for the underexpenditure of the 2019/2020 Targeted Funds in the amount of \$76,865 to be carried forward for the 2020/2021 School Year and to be used on Indigenous Education.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Revised Policy 504.6 – Anaphylaxis / Life Threatening Medical Conditions

Assistant Superintendent Jameel Aziz provided a memo and draft revised policy on 504.6 – Anaphylaxis to include the requirement for schools to have Epi-Pen® or other epinephrine auto-injector system on site for student incidents.

20/114

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the revised 504.6 – Anaphylaxis / Life Threatening Medical Conditions policy be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS**Trustee Reports**

Trustee Comeau reported on John Allison Elementary.
There were no other PAC meetings to report.

Other Reports


Student Trustees will resume attending the Board of Education meetings on October 14, 2020 in Princeton.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Micheal Reeve from Q101 asked about French immersion student enrolment.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary Treasurer