

MINUTES

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

**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020, 6:00 P.M.**

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*Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow*

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Swan
	Trustees	B. Jepsen G. Comeau E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth L. Ward D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	R. Forde K. Druck
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	B. Ross
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Operations Manager	D. Finnigan
	District Principal-Student Support Services	J. Kempston
	Executive Assistant	S. Chenoweth
	Executive Assistant	S. Blonde

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND  
METIS COMMUNITY**

**AGENDA**

20/144 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

20/145

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting November 18, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****Mental Health Presentation**

The Assistant Superintendent introduced the District Principal of Student Support Services, Jane Kempston. District Principal Kempston provided Trustees with an overview of the District's work in the area of Mental Health and Well-Being. She reviewed past and ongoing work as well as new initiatives connected to the 2020 Mental Health Grant.

**Merritt Central Elementary Therapy Dog Proposal**

The Assistant Superintendent circulated a memo and provided the Board with the request for Merritt Central Elementary to have a Certified Therapy Dog on site. He reviewed the steps that are being taken in accordance to Policy No 606.1 Animals in the School/Classroom.

**Pandemic Response Update**

The Superintendent distributed a memo and provided Trustees with a December 2020 update on Stage 2 of the pandemic response. He provided a short presentation on the current Provincial Health Officer orders and the impact they are having on the District. He would like to maintain the successful and vigilant protocols the District is taking.

**Strategic Plan (Teacher / Educational Assistants Survey)**

The Superintendent provided a memo with a timeline for the Teacher and Education Assistant surveys and consultation processes. The questionnaire is brief, and enough time will be provided to respond directly to ImagineACircle.

**Community Meetings**

The Superintendent distributed a memo and involved Trustees in setting dates to meet with local Chiefs, the Town of Princeton and the City of Merritt. The Town of Princeton was recommended to meet in January 2021, the City of Merritt was recommended to meet in February 2021 and the local Chiefs will be contacted to see if a video conference meeting will work.

### **Governor General Award Recipients**

The Assistant Superintendent distributed a memo to inform Trustees of the recent Governor General's award winners. Emi Baek of Merritt Secondary and Addison van Genne of Princeton Secondary have both received this award for their academic achievements and overall contributions to their school community.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

- Governor General Award Recipients
- Holiday Performances and Celebrations
- Professional Learning in Action
- Health and Safety
- Mental Health
- Thank You to the Social Emotional Learning Team
- Recycling is Back - Princeton Student Trustees
- Provincial Recognition
- Holiday Giving
- Experiential Learning

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **Long Range Facility Plan Consultation**

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer provided a memo to the Board to provide Trustees with an overview of the consultation that has taken place regarding the Long Range Facility Plan recommendations. The recommendations were identified as the over capacity at Merritt Bench Elementary School, potential Childcare BC Funding to construct daycare centres in Princeton and Merritt, reduce capital expenditure costs by possibly selling surplus properties and initiating a consultation for the potential relocation of Kengard Learning Centre and the school board office to the former Coquihalla Middle School with a target move date of September 2022.

#### **mTransport Update**

The Superintendent distributed a memo for Trustees on the implementation of the mTransport management system. Operations Manager Darrell Finnigan provided Trustees with an update and fielded questions from the Board.

### **Princeton Recycling Program**

The Assistant Superintendent provided a memo to the Board with the status of paper recycling at schools in Princeton. Student Trustee Rylee Forde, Vice-Principal Larsen and other students worked to secure a contract with Shred It out of Kelowna to ensure that paper does not end up in landfills and is recycled in an environmentally effective way. The District will pay the costs to support this initiative. Student Trustee Forde spoke to the work it took to accomplish the recycling program in Princeton.

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

#### **Trustee Reports**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

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

Trustee Comeau reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Trustee Ward reported on Princeton Secondary.

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola-Canford Elementary.

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary.

#### **Student Trustee Reports**

Student Trustee Druck reported on recent events at Princeton Secondary School. She discussed the organization of Halloween events with Ms. Nelson during and advisory meeting. The Student Council is now formed and have already organized an ugly sweater day, hot chocolate and scones day, a red/green day, a craft day, a turkey day and an upcoming movie day. Ms. Nelson helped arrange food bins to donate to the local food bank and a toonie bin for local charity. Princeton Secondary has started a monthly student acknowledgement and has narrowed down a new school name to three choices.

Student Trustee Forde reported on recent events at Princeton Secondary School. She discussed a powerful presentation hosted by the BC Lions on sexual harassment and abuse. There has been a lot of buzz about Science, Physics and Chemistry labs and projects. Report cards were sent out electronically to families for the first time. Ms. Nelson has started a very successful sewing club.

**Other Reports**

Trustee Comeau spoke to the BC Public School Employees' Association Annual General Meeting and the support for the Board of Directors.

Trustee Ward spoke to the first virtual BC School Trustees' Association Academy.

**CORRESPONDENCE****Vermilion Forks Elementary Grant**

The Superintendent distributed correspondence received on December 8, 2020 from the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan/Similkameen addresses to Principal Clarke to confirm a grant in the amount of \$6,472 for Vermilion Forks Afterschool Recreation and Homework Club. He provided congratulations to Principal Clarke for his efforts securing those dollars.


**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

  
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Chairman

  
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Secretary Treasurer