

MINUTES

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

**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow

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| PRESENT: | Chairman | G. Swan |
| | Trustees | B. Jepsen G. Comeau E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth L. Ward (Absent) D. Rainer |
| | Student Trustees | K. Moyes C. Anscomb |
| | Superintendent | S. McNiven |
| | Assistant Superintendent | J. Aziz |
| | Secretary Treasurer | B. Ross |
| | Assistant Secretary Treasurer | D. Richardson |
| | Operations Manager | D. Finnigan |
| | Executive Assistant | S. Chenoweth |
| | Executive Assistant | S. Blonde |

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

AGENDA

21/006 It was moved and seconded:
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

21/007 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting December 16, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**NI?kepmxcin Primary Enrichment Program Presentation**

The Assistant Superintendent introduced Principal Burt Bergmann and Teachers Angela McIvor and Yvonne Joe who presented to the Board on the NI?kepmxcin Primary Enrichment Language Program at Nicola-Canford Elementary. The presentation showed how rewarding it has been to teach indigenous language and culture to students in Kindergarten to Grade 2.

2019/2020 How We Are Doing Report

The Superintendent circulated a memo and the 2015/16 to 2019/20 How We Are Doing Report. He provided a five-year completion rate for Aboriginal education.

2021-2022 School Calendar

The Superintendent distributed a memo and provided Trustees with a draft 2021/2022 District Calendar for consultation and review.

21/008 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the draft 2021/2022 District Calendar be sent out, as presented, for consultation.

MOTION CARRIED

Strategic Plan Update

The Superintendent provided a memo and reported that the Teacher and Education Assistant surveys are being collected. The next steps for the Strategic Planning Committee were also provided to the Board.

Stage 2 – January Update

The Assistant Superintendent provided a pandemic update presentation to Trustees. He discussed school Covid-19 exposures, supports, communications and that the District is working simultaneously with Interior Health. Assistant Superintendent Aziz also discussed the significance of the positive student engagements being reported.

Education Committee Update

The Superintendent distributed a memo to inform Trustees that the next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021.

Superintendent's Report

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

- Thank you to Merritt Secondary School staff
- Kindness Project – Community Grant
- Battle of the Books
- Challenges with School Attendance
- Covid-19 Protocols

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Long Range Facility Plan Consultation

The 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 and the recommendations made by the Operations Committee. The recommendations include addressing the over capacity at Merritt Bench Elementary with a 50-student expansion and completing an assessment on the potential need for Childcare BC Funding to construct daycare centres in Merritt and Princeton. Additionally, the school board office, IT and maintenance departments along with Kengard Learning Centre to potentially relocate to the former Coquihalla Middle School location, and reviewing and prioritizing the potential disposal of surplus properties.

Facilities and Maintenance Report

The Operations Manager, Darrell Finnigan, provided Trustees with an update of completed and ongoing projects by the operations department. He highlighted that all exterior doors of every school in the District is now controlled by a fob system. This ensures better safety for all students and staff.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ministry of Education Funding Announcements

The Secretary Treasurer distributed a memo regarding the Ministry of Education funding updates. Adjustments will be made to the Amended Annual Budget to incorporate the 2020/21 Interim Operating Grants.

Statement of Financial Information Report

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo reporting that the Statement of Financial Information has been filed with the Ministry of Education.

Budget Update

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with a draft 2021/2022 Annual Budget process timeline. The 2020/21 Amended Annual Budget will be brought forward to the February 10, 2021 board meeting for approval.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Reports

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary.

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

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola-Canford Elementary.

Trustee Comeau reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary.

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Anscomb reported on recent events at Merritt Secondary School. He discussed the academics and the recent Covid-19 exposures. MSS was awarded a Kindness Project Grant for the Nicola Valley Homeless Shelter.

Student Trustee Moyes reported on recent events at Merritt Secondary School. She provided an update on school sports. Students are happy to still have sports available to participate in. A grad raffle fundraiser was held at the end of 2020 and more fundraisers are to take place.

Other Reports

None.

CORRESPONDENCE**Letter to Minister of Education**

The Board Chair provided a copy of the letter addressed to the new Minister of Education, Honourable Jennifer Whiteside.

Letter from Ministry of Finance

The Board Chair provided a copy of the letter from the Ministry of Finance regarding the executive compensation freeze implementation.

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

The Superintendent distributed a copy of correspondence from Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund recipient, John Allison Elementary.

Child Care Action Plans - Princeton

The Superintendent provided the Board with a copy of an invitation to a Child Care Action Plan Workshop in Princeton on February 2, 2021.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary Treasurer