

MINUTES

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

**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021, 6:10 P.M.**

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*Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow*

PRESENT:	Chairperson	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
	Executive Assistant	S. Chenoweth
	Executive Assistant	S. Blonde

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

**AGENDA**

21/013 It was moved and seconded:  
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

21/014 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting January 13, 2021, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****2021-2022 School Calendar**

The Superintendent distributed a memo and provided Trustees with a draft 2021/2022 District Calendar to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval, following the consultation process.

21/015 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the draft 2021/2022 District Calendar be sent out to the Ministry of Education, as presented, for approval.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**John Allison Elementary Presentation**

The Assistant Superintendent introduced Principal Sandra Blair of John Allison Elementary. Principal Blair along with teachers Mikki Ransome and Nadine Thibert presented to the Board on John Allison Elementary's literacy and numeracy efforts. With the assistance of a pandemic support teacher, and revision of assessments, the school-based literacy and numeracy team has been able to meet the PM benchmarks.

\*\*Trustee Rainer joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

**Equity in Action**

The Superintendent provided a memo and recommended that the Equity Scan 2021-2022 be completed in spring 2021. The Equity in Action Framework data allows the District to examine and respond to any inequities discovered with Indigenous students.

**Black History Month**

The Superintendent informed the Board that teachers across the district have been encouraged to implement the Ministry of Education resources regarding February's Black History Month.

### **Pandemic Support Update**

Assistant Superintendent Aziz presented to the Board with an update on the District's pandemic support. The District is continuing to communicate with students and families regarding provincial health updates and to support online learners.

### **Nicola Valley Institute of Technology Mechanics Program**

The Assistant Superintendent distributed a memo to inform Trustees that the District has partnered with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) that will allow NVIT to host a Mechanics Program at Merritt Secondary School after hours for the next 8 months.

### **Local Chiefs and Trustees Meeting**

The Superintendent provided Trustees with an agenda for the February 16, 2021 meeting with Local Band Chiefs. He also discussed the development of a Nlaka'pamx Immersion program, a post-secondary transition program, the Equity Scan, and the current Local Education Agreements.

### **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 Interior Health
- "Kids These Days" by Dr. Jody Carrington
- Welcome to Merritt Central Elementary's new therapy dog, Roxy
- Kindness Projects
- New 3D Laser Printer
- Exploring Careers
- Nicola-Canford Morning Show
- Black History Month
- Winter Sports
- Updated COVID-19 Protocols

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

The Secretary Treasurer provided a memo, and the Superintendent reviewed the consultation process and recommendations of the Long-Range Facility Plan focussing on a completed needs assessment survey for childcare opportunities.

### **Disposal of Real Property Bylaws**

To request Ministerial approval to potentially dispose of District surplus properties, the Secretary Treasurer circulated 7 Disposal of Real Property Bylaws for the Board's consent. Formal appraisals will be arranged for any properties valued at over \$300,000. If the 7 Disposal of Real Property Bylaws are approved, the consultation process for each will begin throughout the District.

21/016 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the following draft bylaws be read for a first and second time:

- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Riverside Community Centre (PID 005-465-087)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Former Princeton School Board Office (PID 003-214-958)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Merritt School Board Office (PID 018-239-536)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Kengard Learning Centre (PID 008-296-235)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Former Brookmere Elementary School (PID 014-930-790)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Former Brookmere Teacherage (PID 010-096-574)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Lower Nicola Vacant Lot (PID 011-838-396)

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was unanimous that final reading take place.

21/017 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the following draft bylaws be read for a third and final time, finally passed and adopted:

- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Riverside Community Centre (PID 005-465-087)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Former Princeton School Board Office (PID 003-214-958)
- Disposal of Real Estate Policy Bylaw - Merritt School Board Office (PID 018-239-536)
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### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **COVID-19 Poster Contest**

The Secretary Treasurer provided a memo to the Board to invite Trustees to join the panel of judges for the COVID-19 poster contest. The panel will meet on February 26, 2021 to choose 33 winners. Winners will receive a classroom prize of \$150 towards a COVID-19 safe classroom celebration.



## **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **2020/21 Amended Annual Budget**

The Secretary Treasurer distributed a memo and presented the 2020/21 Amended Annual Budget. She noted that the Provincial and Federal Grants provided for Covid-19 expenses were not enough to cover the incremental costs and that this budget reflected an additional appropriation of \$280,494 from the Operating Fund Surplus.

20/018 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the 2020/2021 fiscal year specifying a budget bylaw amount of **\$33,922,090** be read a first and second time.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was unanimous that final reading take place.

20/019 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the 2020/2021 fiscal year specifying a budget bylaw amount of **\$33,922,090** be read a third and final time, finally passed and adopted.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Safe Return to Class Fund**

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo reporting that the Ministry of Education released the funding announcement for Phase Two of the Federal Safe Return to Class Fund in the amount of \$433,896, for a total allocation of \$907,255.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **Trustee Reports**

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola-Canford Elementary.

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 Comeau reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Trustee Ward reported on Princeton Secondary School.

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 organizational excellence and staff transitions. The new COVID-19 protocols are being enforced and custodial staff are doing a fantastic job. The internet access for personal devices needs to be addressed. An update on sports and clubs was also provided.

Student Trustee Forde reported on recent events at Princeton Secondary School. She provided an update on student mental health and positive body images. All students will be participating in Random Act of Kindness Day and World Kidney Day. A new school name has been narrowed down and will be chosen soon. An update on recycling and the increase in vaping was also provided.

### **Aboriginal Advisory Council Meeting Report**

Superintendent McNiven provided a report on the February 2, 2021 Aboriginal Advisory Council Meeting.

### **Carole James – Order of British Columbia**

Board Chair Swan would like to post-pone this agenda item until 2022.

### **Other Reports**

Trustee Ward reminded the Board of upcoming BCSTA AGM meeting invites and agendas.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

  
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Chairperson

  
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Secretary Treasurer