

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Trustees	B. Jepsen G. Comeau E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth L. Ward D. Rainer
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	V. Chan
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Executive Assistant	D. McDermott
	Operations Manager	D. Finnigan
	Project Manager	D. Boyd

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

Chair Swan acknowledged all stakeholder groups for all their efforts in response to the recent flooding events, November 2021.

AGENDA

Regular Meeting Agenda

MINUTES

22/005 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held December 15, 2021, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

No Business was brought forward

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2020/2021 How Are We Doing Report

Superintendent spoke to memo and presentation in Board package.

2022-2023 School Calendar

Superintendent presented the new calendar as distributed, pointing out further updates will be made and a new calendar will be posted shortly.

Flood Response Update

Both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent provided an update on all of the alternate facilities that have been secured as learning spaces for SD58 students in both the north and south ends of the school district.

Merritt Central presently has 2 Divisions at the EV Free Church, 5 divisions at Merritt Crossroads Church (former Marantha school), and 3 divisions at the former Coquihalla Middle School Campus.

Merritt Secondary School has its students attending undamaged portions of MSS, NVIT (Grades 11-12) and CMS (Grades 8-10)

Diamond Vale Elementary has its students attending three other elementary schools that were unaffected by the flood: Nicola-Canford, Merritt Bench, and Collettsville.

The school district would like to publicly recognize its community partners for their support towards SD58 students.

April 4, 2022 is target date to reopen Diamond Vale and MSS

September 2022 remains the target date to reopen Merritt Central

Merritt Board Office – undetermined target date

Merritt Central Students will move to CMS once both MSS and Diamond Vale are reopened.

Pandemic Response Update

Assistant Superintendent provided an update that the school district continues to work hard in maintaining the protocols put in place by the province.

Provincial Online School Expression of Interest

The school district submitted its application December 2021 in consideration for the school district to be selected by the province to provide Distributed Learning as one of the province's Provincial Online Support Programs (POSP)

Superintendent's Report

Provided by the Superintendent by way of power point slide show, providing an update of the flood response and facility updates.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

School Repairs Update by the Project Manager

We are very fortunate to have an experienced Project Manager working with the school district in response to the flooding events November 2021.

The Project Manager is very pleased with the flood response efforts so far. Diamond Vale and Merritt Secondary were the least damaged and therefore, the focus to bring back online as quickly as possible. Parts of MSS were undamaged and respective learning spaces continue to be used. Remediate and abatement work is well underway while quotes for repair are in process.

Merritt Central endured much more damage in comparison to Diamond Vale and Merritt Secondary. Precautions are being taken to maintain health and safety protocols.

The Merritt board office also took on substantial mud and water damage, which as since been removed. Abatement currently underway and will then look to forecast repairs.

Soil testing done at each facility and all test returned a negative status for contamination. Repair work will commence in the spring, at which time, surface and underground water systems will be further assessed.

Busing Update by the Operations Manager

Four new busing stops added in the Merritt area. The entire bussing route for Merritt had to be reworked. In addition to the new regular bus schedule, the district has five day-time buses operating in Merritt, transporting students throughout the day.

The Superintendent thanked the Operations Manager and team for their hard work.

The school district busing schedule is currently running at full capacity.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Updates were provided by the Superintendent and Assistant Secretary Treasurer on the following items:

- a) Ministry of Education Funding Announcements
- b) Statement of Financial Information Report
- c) Budget Update

POLICY

- a) Vaccination Policy Update

A survey was conducted, consulting various stakeholder groups in exploring a vaccination policy for the school district.

The board fully supports that all stakeholder groups receive COVID-19 vaccinations

At this time the Board has passed a motion that it will not implement a mandatory vaccination at this time. The board will continue to monitor and return to this process as needed.

TRUSTEE QUERIES

- a) P.A.C. Reports

Merritt Bench. Raising money for year end Grade 7 trip. COVID has impacted fundraising efforts. Merritt Bench has been so welcoming of Diamond Vale students.

John Allison had to postpone their meeting but expressed learning concerns and having summer school supports

Vermillion Forks. Amazing cooperation with all of the busing activity. The public has shown a great deal of courtesy to busing services.

Kengard Learning Centre. Their educational services have not been disrupted since the flood. They are looking forward to moosehide campaign (addressing violence against women).

- b) Student Trustee Reports

Student trustees were not in attendance to the board meeting

The Assistant Superintendent will invite all four student trustees to the next scheduled board meeting.

- c) Other Reports

No other reports were brought forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter to Minister of Transportation

Declared conflict by Trustee Jepsen, who recused.

Presented by the Superintendent, motioned by the Board to support the Nicola Canford PAC, and a subsequent letter.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

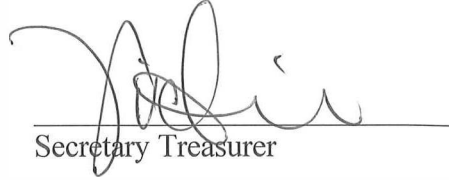
No questions were brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer