

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, 6:08 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Trustees	B. Jepsen G. Comeau E. Hoisington (absent) J. Chenoweth L. Ward D. Rainer
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	Vacant
	Executive Assistant	J. McGifford

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

AGENDA

22/020 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

22/021 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting June 8, 2022, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**Student Trustee Recognition**

The Assistant Superintendent spoke to the Student Trustees nominations in October. Encouraging discussion with School Administration around increasing diversity and accessibility to the Student Trustee Program.

Presentation – Princeton Summer Learning

Ms. Ross (Kindergarten Teacher) and Principal Sandee Blair from John Allison Elementary gave a power point presentation on the exciting, fun, and very successful Princeton Summer Learning Program (a program that evolved from teacher concerns of learning losses and isolation in students over the summer due to the pandemic and flooding events in the community). Focus was on attracting emerging and developing readers. Teaching staff saw the reading levels of students increase by at least one level over the course of the four-week program. The Board encouraged program continuation next summer with the potential of developing the event for the long term.

Ministry of Education and Childcare Update

The Superintendent spoke to priorities coming down from Ministry of Education and Childcare. There will be a focus on completion rates with attention on the 'whole child', implementing indigenous-focused graduation, classroom assessments/reporting, provincial assessments, and curriculum updates incorporating Truth and Reconciliation as well as inclusion.

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report will be complete by end of September.

It was noted the areas of major Government Priorities and Focus: Reconciliation, Childcare, Equity and Anti-Racism and Mental Health in Schools. This led to a Board discussion on supporting the mental health of staff.

Family Affordability Fund

A government grant of \$250,000 (one time funding) for food, school supplies and fees has been awarded to the district. Principals have been asked to work with staff to provide input & feedback on the disbursement of these funds with an awareness to de-stigmatization (ie/ universal programs). Feedback has also been requested from First Nations' Support Workers, DPAC, etc. Clear communication to families on the disbursement of these funds will be crucial. Mention was made to the districts existing hardship policy for families requiring supports.

Strategic Plan Update

The Superintendent spoke to district priorities of the Equity Scan (reconnecting the Equity Scan Committee after hiatus due to the flood event) and the district's Communication Plan. Our Enhancement Agreement expires this year and can we shift to a partnering of this with the Equity Scan

The Assistant Superintendent also spoke to the Strategic Plan: clearly identifying goals of connection, appreciation and respect, and meaning and purpose. This has led to developing the Communication Plan (the crucial first step in achieving Strategic Plan goals with a focus on improved communication between stakeholders, staff, students, and families).

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report

The Superintendent spoke to the district's compliance with legislation requiring we report to the Ministry by Sept 30, 2022. The Superintendent be reaching out to our Education Committee shortly and will share the report with the board at the next meeting.

Standing Agenda Items (Going Forward)

The Board Chair suggested a written report or presentation on the work done by department/directors at regular Board meetings. This will provide trustees with opportunity to review and clarify department specific questions.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent circulated his report identifying the important work the district has been working on. This included: thanking the maintenance and operations staff for a smooth start-up to the year; welcoming new staff and encouraging fostering connections; the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation week and Welcome Dinners; Summer Learning Programs in both Merritt and Princeton; French for Parents (a support system for parents of French Immersion students); fostering communication (specifically noting Princeton Secondary School's positive online presence); Summer Institute; the re-establishment of Merritt Central Library and Strong Start Program re-after the flood.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**2021/2022 Capital Projects Update**

The Secretary Treasurer gave a verbal update on all capital projects completed over the past year despite the flooding events and notable shipping and supply chain issues. Thanks was given to Mr. Finnigan and the Operations Team.

22/023

It was moved and seconded:

THAT: the district submit a letter to Ministry requesting that the school district underspend Indigenous Education dollars by \$11,165 for the 2021/2022 school year, and carry forward targeted funds into the 2022/2023 school year.

MOTION CARRIED**Weather Events Repairs Update**

Project Manager Doug Boyd provided an update on the status of the facility repairs resulting from the November flood events. All schools are now functional with playgrounds, fields, and parking nearing completion and sign off. The Board extended gratitude to Doug Boyd as well as the multiple stakeholder and community groups that supported the School District through the flood.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**2021/2022 Audited Financial Statements**

22/022

The Secretary Treasurer introduced the district's external Auditor, who presented the 2021/2022 audited financial statements. The auditor was pleased to advise the Board of a clean year-end audit. Given the circumstances of the overland flooding events the Auditor commended the district for its ability to adapt, and in the process, fulfill all the requirements of the audit. The Auditor recommended that the Board complete a review of its emergency planning procedures. The Board expressed thanks for the work of the Auditor and district staff.

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the board approve and sign the 2021/2022 audited financial statements.

MOTION CARRIED**POLICY COMMITTEE****Trustee Code of Ethics and Conduct**

The Superintendent spoke to the Trustee Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy. This was signed and dated by all Trustees. Newly elected Trustees will sign after the October election.

Non-Sexist Environment Communique

The Board Chair spoke to the spoke to the memo in the board package.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Reports

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Rainer reported that Princeton Secondary will be meeting soon.

Trustee Comeau reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary School.

Trustee Ward and Principal Blair reported on John Allison Elementary School.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and that Collettsville Elementary will be meeting soon.

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary Schools.

Trustee Jepsen reported on Merritt Central Elementary School.

Other Reports

Professional Learning Committee: What are our district initiatives to support Trustees or new Trustees. This will be further addressed at the Committee of the Whole meeting in the summer.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

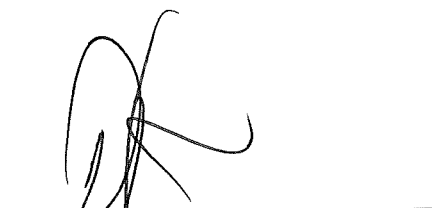
PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:04


Chairperson


Secretary Treasurer

