

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Trustees	J. Jepsen (Absent) J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth L. Ward D. Rainer (Absent)
	Student Trustees	R. Anderson O. Bateson
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	J. McGifford

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

AGENDA

22/049

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

22/050

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting November 09, 2022, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**Merritt Secondary School Presentation – Bamfield Field Trip:**

Merritt Secondary School Principal, Ms. Adriane Moulard, introduced teacher Ms. Lindsay DeVisser and four MSS students who attended the Bamfield Science Marine Trip in November. They shared their power point presentation and spoke of the many highlights and learning opportunities provided to them on their four-day trip studying oceanography as well as marine ecosystems.

Truth and Reconciliation – FNEESC Presentation:

Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education, introduced the Principal of Nicola Canford Elementary School, Burt Bergmann, FNSW Lara Coutlee and FNSW/Elder Esther Shackelly. They are presenting at the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEESC) Conference in Vancouver on Dec 8, 9, 10. The group shared a segment of the presentation that will delivered at the conference.

Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education Update:

The Superintendent introduced Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education, Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte. Mrs. Oppenheim-Lacerte provided an update on the steps the District has taken towards Truth and Reconciliation inclusive of all students, teachers, administration and local communities.

Strategic Plan Update:

The Superintendent spoke to the four documents in the board package connected to the Strategic Plan. He spoke of how these documents highlight our guiding principles and objectives and where they can be accessed. He explained how various types of District information is being provided to staff, students, and families in a variety of ways as part of our Communication Plan.

Superintendents Report:

The Superintendent provided an update on some of the positives that have occurred across the School District this past month. These included the many seasonal events taking place in Princeton and Merritt schools; implementing the Student and Family Affordability Fund; Early Childhood Education opportunities; our District presence at the FNEESC conference; being awarded \$34000 worth of grants for the Afterschool program at Vermilion Forks Elementary; hosting Provincial Girls Volleyball at MSS; the Open Parachute program mental health initiative; school bus safety; and thanking the custodial staff across the District for all of the work they do. He urged everyone to stay connected!

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**Operations Update:**

The Board Chair introduced Manager of Operations, Darrell Finnigan, who provided an update of the memo in the Board Package. The Operations Department has been extremely busy with work orders – some still pertaining to flood related concerns. He thanked his maintenance team for managing these ongoing tasks.

AUDIT AND FINANCE**2022/2023 Budget Update:**

The Secretary Treasurer introduced our new Assistant Secretary Treasurer Laura Rusnjak. He spoke to the memo in the Board Package relating to the upcoming funding announcement. The financial update for the first two quarters of the 2022-2023 school year will be provided in January.

POLICY**Policy Audit Update:**

The Superintendent explained we have started the audit and renovation of our current policies with a focus on inclusivity and Truth and Reconciliation. He spoke of the importance of Board Governance policies and working with our policy committees through this process. This project is forecasted for completion in June 2024.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary. He thanked SCIDES Principal Karen Goetz for her years of work with SD 58, wishing her the best in her upcoming retirement.

Trustee Rainer was not present to report on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Ward reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

Trustee Jepsen was not present to report on Diamond Vale Elementary or Merritt Central Elementary.

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary.

Student Trustee Reports:

Student Trustees River Anderson and Owen Bateson reported on Merritt Secondary School activities.

Other Reports:

BCSTA: A motion was made at BCSTA to make the Family Affordability Grant ongoing. This motion will be going before Provincial council in February. A motion for a universal foods program was also brought forward. This will go to the BCSTA AGM on a national level. Trustees would like to connect with our Student Trustees in the hopes of including them at the spring conference.

CORRESPONDENCE


The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the memo in the board package regarding the bid for the 2027 North American Indigenous Games to be held in Kamloops.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

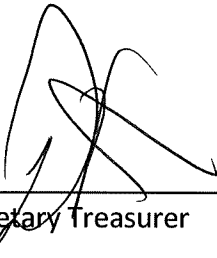
None.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer

