

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

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

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

AGENDA

23/013 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented with question period moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate the French Immersion students and families in attendance.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

23/014

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting January 11, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**French Immersion (Challenges and Concerns):**

The Superintendent spoke to the letter Merritt Secondary School distributed to French Immersion families and discussed the concerns, challenges, and support required to maintain the French Immersion Program in our district. An opportunity for public question and answer followed afterwards.

The following questions were brought forward by the public for discussion with the Board.

1. Why the lack of communication from the District to parents?
2. Would the District consider the creation of a French Advisory Committee comprised of various stakeholders including parents?
3. Is there a 'challenge' process for French courses?
4. Is it possible to re-allocate French teaching staff to classes that require higher levels of instruction?
5. What other items from the letter can be actioned at this time?
6. Is there a French Coordinator in the district?
7. With 25% of instruction being offered in French are students still able to receive their dual diploma?
8. Why is communication from teaching staff to students conflicting on the future of the French Immersion Program?
9. How will the District support the complex demands of the curriculum for those students in grades 8 and 9?
10. How will the gap in learning Grade 7 math in French then Grade 8 math in English (due to lack of a FIM teacher) be addressed as these students progress?

Field Trips:

The Superintendent introduced the Principal of Collettsville Elementary School, Rene Aubin. Mr. Aubin presented on the multiple benefits of the school's trip to Quebec (scheduled tentatively for June). The cost is roughly \$2500 per student plus taxes and insurance. Fundraising is underway with french funding money also available.

23/015

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board is supportive and in approval of Collettsville Elementary School's trip to Quebec on June 6-10, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED**Truth and Reconciliation – Equity Scan Survey:**

The Superintendent spoke to the Equity in Action Committee meeting held on Feb 7, 2023. The Equity Scan Survey questions were provided to Education Coordinators for their feedback at that time.

RCMP Liaison Program:

Assistant Superintendent Kempston spoke to the communications that have taken place with our AAC, PAC, and Mental /Social Support groups on the School Liaison Officer program. Universally, people felt that people felt this program was valuable provided we maintain a trauma informed approach that is also mindful of developmental ages of our students.

Early Learning and Childcare Update:

Vice-Principal of Early Learning and Childcare, Daniella Bennie, provided an update on the significant progress made on the many Early Learning and Childcare initiatives underway.

**Strategic Plan Update:
(Ministry of Education and Childcare Peer Review)**

The Superintendent spoke of the recent Framework for Enhancing Student Learning meeting that took place between district representatives and the Ministry of Education.

Superintendents Report:

The Superintendent provided his report reflecting on the many events that occurred across the District over the past month.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Riverside Learning Centre Update:

Superintendent McNiven presented on the District's priorities and commitments for Riverside Learning Centre.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

2022/2023 Amended (Final) Budget:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson brought forward the 2022-2023 Final Budget for Board approval.

23/016

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board approve the amended annual budget for 2022-2023 pass first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

23/017

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board approve the amended annual budget for 2022-2023 pass second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

23/018

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board move the amended annual budget for 2022-2023 to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

23/019

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board approve the amended annual budget for 2022-2023 pass third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

2023-2024 Budget Process:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson spoke to the memo in the Board Package outlining the Budget Planning Process for the 2023-2024 Annual (Preliminary) Budget.

POLICY COMMITTEE**Public Feedback:**

The Superintendent spoke to the memo in the board package relating to the progress made by the Policy Committee this past month. Senior staff will be following up on feedback provided by Stakeholders then present the policies to the Board in March for potential second, third and final reading.

TRUSTEE REPORTS**Student Trustee Reports:**

Student Trustee Owen Bateson reported on Merritt Secondary School activities.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary.

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

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

Aboriginal Advisory Council Update:

Superintendent McNiven presented on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting that took place January 31, 2023.

Other Reports:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Princeton Skills Centre Board Appointment

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw will represent the School District on the Board of Directors for the Princeton & District Community Skills Centre.

Okanagan Labour Relations Council Professional Development

Trustees discussed the upcoming OLRC meeting in March.


PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Public Question:

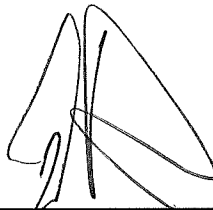
1. Request for concise communication and sharing of future board meeting times and agendas to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer