

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)  
MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023, 6:08 P.M.**

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*Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow*

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

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

**AGENDA**

23/032      It was moved and seconded:  
  
              THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **MINUTES**

23/033

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting March 8, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **South Central Interior Distance Education School Update**

SCIDES Principal, Dan Duncan, and teachers Lianna Tilt, Cory Hart and Corey Hermiston provided an update on the growth of South Central Interior Distance Education School. Principal Duncan spoke of Brightspace, becoming a POLS and the three-year plan to support Indigenous students. He extended thanks to the Board for their support with the school's initiatives.

### **Board Authority Authorized Courses:**

Principal Duncan, Ms. Tilt, Mr. Hart, and Mr. Hermiston spoke to their request for the approval of seven Board Authorized Courses. There is a target date of September to launch these courses which, if successful, could add an additional 72 students to SCIDES enrolment.

23/034

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board approve the seven Board Authorized Courses as presented by SCIDES.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Merritt Secondary School Cameras:**

The Superintendent introduced Merritt Secondary School Principal, Adriane Mouland. She provided background on the request for the Board to consider the approval of installation of security cameras inside Merritt Secondary School.

23/035 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board support the request for the installation of security cameras inside Merritt Secondary School.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Truth and Reconciliation- Equity Scan Update:**

Assistant Superintendent, Jane Kempston, provided an update on the Equity Scan Survey that has been distributed to all families in the district. To date, 31 families have completed the short survey and four families have completed the long survey. Community meetings and interviews will be done by May followed by analysis, planning and consultation. Resulting action items will be implemented in September.

**Early Learning Update:**

Vice-Principal of Early Learning and Childcare, Daniella Bennie, provided her update. She spoke to the District's journey towards Seamless Day Kindergarten, Riverside Learning Centre engagement sessions, filling the vacancy of the Strong Start facilitator at Merritt Central Elementary, CR4YC, SEY2KT, and Ready Set Learn.

**Graduation Ceremonies and Year End Activities:**

The Superintendent spoke to the memo in the Board Package that outlined the upcoming year-end activities providing Trustees with an opportunity to consider their representation. The Board will revisit this item at the May meeting to confirm their attendance at events across the District.

**Superintendent's Report:**

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

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Coquihalla Middle School/Kengard Learning Centre Update:**

Secretary Treasurer Richardson spoke to the memo in the Board Package that outlined the two requests for lease space at Kengard Learning Centre. Insight Support Services has since entered into a lease agreement with the District.

Coquihalla Middle School currently houses the district's IT technology department as well as the Community Learning Centre (Alternate Program).

**Riverside Learning Centre Update:**

Superintendent McNiven spoke to the memo in the board package and provided Trustees with an update on the preliminary work underway at Riverside Learning Centre in preparation for the New Spaces Grant Application.

**Capital Plan Bylaw:**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the capital plan response letter from the Capital Management Branch for Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD58-01 for four projects that have received approval: PSS HVAC Upgrades; MSS HVAC Upgrades; Riverside HVAC Upgrades and Merritt Bench Elementary Playground.

23/036

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD58-01 be approved for first reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

23/037

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD58-01 be approved for second reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

23/038

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD58-01 be moved to third reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

23/039

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD58-01 be approved for third and final reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **2023-2024 Estimated Operating Grant:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with a summary of operating grants that will be used to prepare the 2023/24 annual (preliminary) budget. to date for the 2023/24 school year.

Of note, the District is receiving \$350,000 for the Feeding Futures Fund. This new funding builds on the Student and Family Affordability funding that was received last year.

### **2023/2024 Budget Consultation:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided an update on the Budget Planning Consultation Process for the 2023/2024 Annual (Preliminary) Budget. Public information sessions were held in Princeton on April 4 and in Merritt on April 5. Budget preparations continue with April 19th being our target date to present the 2023/24 preliminary budget to the Finance Committee. It will then be brought to the Board on May 10th.

## **POLICY**

### **Policy Updates and Development:**

The Superintendent spoke to the memo in the board package that outlined the amendments (after public consultation) to Policies 611, 610 and 280.

23/040

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Policies # 280, 610, 611 be approved for second reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

23/041

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Policies # 280, 610, 611 be approved for third reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

23/042

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Policies # 280, 610, 611 be moved for third and final reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**Student Trustee Reports:**

Student Trustees Owen Bateson and River Anderson shared their power point presentation and reported on Merritt Secondary School activities.

**Trustee Reports:**

Trustee Jepsen reported on SCIDES for Trustee Chenoweth.

Trustee Rainer reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported that Nicola Canford Elementary PAC was meeting this evening.

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. He was not able to attend the meeting at Merritt Secondary School.

**Other Reports:**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE****Request for Support – Merritt Skateboard Park Lighting:**

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the letter in the board package from Daniel Glasgow asking for support, in principle, of the installation of additional lighting at the Merritt skateboard park.

23/043

It was moved and seconded:



THAT the Board provide a Letter of Support, in principle, for the installation of additional lighting at the Merritt skateboard park.

**MOTION CARRIED****PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

  
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Chairperson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Treasurer

