

**MINUTES**

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

**VIA TEAMS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023, 3:00 PM**

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*Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow*

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Trustees	J. Jepsen J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth (Absent) L. Ward (Absent) D. Rainer
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak (ABSENT)
	Executive Assistant	J. McGifford (ABSENT)
	Director of Education, LNIB	Shane Coutlee
	Principal, SCIDES	Dan Duncan
	Consultant	Anne Cooper

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The Secretary Treasurer recorded meeting minutes for duration of the meeting.

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

**AGENDA**

**SECTION 1.00 ORGANIZATION**

Ms. Cooper discussed and recommended that the Board consider a working group surrounding Truth & Reconciliation, Anti-racism.

### **POLICY REVISION DRAFTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING**

#### **Policy 1.20 Board Authority, Role, and Responsibilities**

Previously no work completed on this policy and therefore, no tracked changes for this Word document.

The board operates as a whole (as per the School Act). Truth and Reconciliation should have a place within board responsibility. Suggest that this statement be more personable, using language that connects to our surrounding First Nations and Metis communities. Also reference students that attend SCIDES, from other Indigenous communities around the province. We want to make sure the language is inclusive.

Policy, financial planning, and long-range strategic planning are the key ways that the board exercises its authority.

Second paragraph: ...The Board has, as its primary responsibility..., consider adding language around “progressive improvement,” or “continuous improvement.” The present language comes directly from the School Act however, specific targets and measures would be helpful.

Third paragraph, the word “direct.” And “and aligns.”

The term rightsholders is referenced as one word but clarification will be taken to determine if the word is capitalized or not.

Specific responsibilities need to be linked to the LEA. Include rightsholders and Indigenous communities. Awkward language in this sentence that will need to be reviewed. End goal is success. Consider “to further the success...”

#### **Policy 1.22 Trustee Code of Conduct**

Breaches can carry legal implications and therefore, language from our legal team, Harris & Co., has been used.

Discontinuing the use of the number ‘58’ should be a priority as we update our policies.

Removal of co-governance with the Ministry with a focus on what is expected of the Board’s conduct.

Question surrounding the removal of human rights. There is a shift towards an equity focus and so use of equity should be used in place of human rights.

Removal of paragraph referring to policy leadership as it is previously referenced.

The term "ethical" is not used in Code of Conduct. Rather, standards of conduct, are the new, preferred language. Suggest that we move away from "aspire" to a word that carries a stronger emphasis.

The following suggestions were made: move away from "commitment statements;" Addition of rightsholders to the language of these statements; replace the use of "directed" to "guided", move away from "understanding" towards "displaying mutual respect", change from the use of the word "shall" to "will."

In reference to the decision-making (i.e. #2), knowledge about the Local Education Agreement should be incorporated (in front of initiatives).

In reference to gender neutral language, the word "fellow" is not suitable and the use of "each other" is more fitting.

Clarification that the context for the use of the word "authority" is as a corporate body and not as an individual. An additional perspective was offered that, when defining Trustees as not having a single voice, while the Chair is the official spokesperson of the Board, they do not proceed to do so without first consulting with and receiving direction from the Board as a whole.

Suggest replacing the use of the word "endorse" to "support" in reference to Trustees accepting the decisions made by the Board. Consider rewording the last sentence on No. 8 so that the Board has a way to relook at previous decisions that were made. It was agreed that we should remove the last entire sentence.

Under Trustee Professional Learning, changing First Nations to Indigenous to encompass: First Nations, Inuit, and Metis. Clarification is needed surrounding JCAM and reference to trustees.

No. 10. Suggest the removal of Executive Officers and retain that this responsibility is to the Board.

Nicola-Similkameen has previous language about what happens when the Code of Conduct is broken. These sanctions have been rewritten, incorporating the advice provided by Harris & Co. A question was raised regarding the Saskatchewan Government's use of a Notwithstanding clause, asking Boards of Education to violate their human rights. Ms. Cooper responded by explaining, as long as our BC Human Rights Act is in place and in force, then a Trustee acting in such a manner is actually violating the law as well, and so the district should be covered in such instances.

Informal complaint process. “Parliamentary decorum” in 1.3.2., change to “expected standards of decorum”.

Section 3.5. Feedback was provided on the language being used: “in the opinion of the Chair.” Why the emphasis on this person and should not other individuals be brought in? Suggestion that this should be changed to “in the opinion of the Board,” taking burden off of one individual and onto the Board as a whole.

*At 4:55pm, Trustee Rainer & Trustee Jepsen left the meeting because of being previously scheduled with other commitments-- leaving only three trustees in attendance. The Secretary Treasurer asked the Board Chair if the policy meeting should continue without a quorum of the Board being present. The Board Chair surveyed attendees, and a unanimous agreement was made, all remaining on the call were comfortable proceeding with the policy review.*

In the section “Decision made to not proceed on complaint” suggest adding in language referring to the complainant wishing to withdraw their complaint.

Investigation. Suggest the removal of “and report to the Board.” Note that investigation is not needed in most cases as the Board will typically be fully informed. Having said that, there could be a need from time to time, for an investigation. Removal of references to “Board Chair” and replace with “Board.”

Inquiry procedure. Discussion about a civil tort and whether that should weigh in on 8.7 (Ex. This is happening in Chilliwack).

Regarding 8.6, why would witnesses not be called? In a complex case, you would have an investigator involved. This creates a simpler process. If the witnesses were Trustees, their priviness to information would only be after the respective Trustees would have provided their witness statement.

Regarding 10.3.3 Clarification that failure to follow through would possibly impose other sanctions.

This entire section is worded at the recommendation of Harris & Co.

#### **Policy 1.23 Trustee Conflict of Interest**

This policy was not reviewed.

#### **Policy 1.70 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses**

This policy was not reviewed.

#### **Policy 1.71 Trustee Professional Learning**

This policy was not reviewed.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will pick up on this agenda to go through Policies 1.23, 1.70, & 1.71.

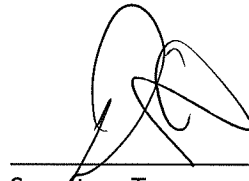
**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington that the meeting be adjourned.

The closed meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer

