

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023, 6:00P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Trustees	J. Jepsen J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth (ABSENT) L. Ward D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	K. Hartwell M. Williams
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston (VIA ZOOM)
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	J. McGifford

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

AGENDA

23/099 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

23/100

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held October 11, 2023, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

EDUCATION**Truth and Reconciliation – Ministry of Education Update:**

The Superintendent provided an overview of the updates to the School Act announced by the Ministry of Education and Child Care on October 25th. This announcement and the proposed amendments to the School Act are in response to the commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA). The changes are intended to support better educational outcomes for First Nation and other Indigenous students attending provincial public schools, and to create more effective relationships between Boards of Education and First Nations. The proposed changes take a distinctions-based approach and were developed collaboratively with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and reflect consultation with First Nations and Indigenous people throughout B.C.

The changes will require all Boards to establish an Indigenous Education Council (IEC). In addition, a new school-of-choice provision allows each First Nation to decide which school their students who live on reserve will attend each school year.

Roles of Schools and Educators in Supporting Resilience in Young Children After Disasters:

Princeton Secondary School teacher, Leanne Atkinson, provided Trustees with a presentation on her recent article published in the Canadian Journal of Emergency Management highlighting the important role that schools and educators play in supporting students and families after disasters.

Princeton Secondary School – Student Cell Phone Use:

Bill Lawrence, Principal of Princeton Secondary School, presented on the new cell phone use procedures at PSS. Areas of discussion included rationale, communication, procedures, impact on learning, student, family, and staff feedback.

Inclusive Education Report:

Misty Sheldon, Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education, provided a report on Inclusive Education. Topics included Education Assistant recruitment, Competency Based Individual Education Plans, file reviews, the Mental Health Grant, and the Accessibility Committee.

French Immersion Field Trip Proposal:

The Assistant Superintendent presented Collettsville Elementary School's proposal for a French Immersion trip to Quebec City for Carnaval from February 8 to 12, 2024. A total of 14 students from Collettsville Elementary and Merritt Secondary will have the opportunity to travel to Quebec and enjoy the cultural experiences and adventures offered by this trip.

23/101

It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw:

THAT the Board support Collettsville Elementary School's French Immersion trip to Quebec City in February 2024.

MOTION CARRIED**French Immersion Program Update:**

The Assistant Superintendent spoke to the developments in the French Growth Grant Initiative, highlighting the following areas: promotional video development, hiring of a French speaking assistant, French Advisory Committee, implementation of a French Immersion Program review, field trip support, resource purchasing, "French for a Day" pre-kindergarten events, and French Immersion Teacher support.

Enrollment Update:

Senior Staff provided Trustees with an update on final enrolment and an overview of class size averages across the district.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent circulated and spoke to his report, reflecting on the district events that have taken place over the past month.

OPERATIONS**Nicola-Canford Perimeter Access:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with an update on the school district's work, along with various stakeholder groups within the community of Lower Nicola, on short and long-term solutions for pedestrians walking to and from Nicola-Canford Elementary School. Access to Nicola-Canford Elementary School via the pathway on private property has been reopened for students and citizens of Lower Nicola—effective Thursday November 2, 2023. He extended thanks and gratitude to all stakeholders involved to make this possible. With access being reopened, work continues to develop a long-term solution.

Merritt Secondary School Cameras:

Principal, Ms. Adriane Moulard, provided an update on the installation of cameras at Merritt Secondary School. This included communication to students and families, stakeholder feedback, the process for accessing video information, the impact of the cameras on the administrative process, and the impact of cameras on the school as a whole.

AUDIT AND FINANCE**Quarterly Update:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with a quarterly update on the school district's spending to budget for the first quarter of the school year, July 1 – September 30, 2023.

POLICY

Procedural Bylaw:

23/102 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Ward:

THAT Bylaw No. 2-23, Procedural Bylaw, with accepted changes, be moved for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Use of School District Property Bylaw:

23/103 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT the Board move Bylaw 6-23, Use of School District Property, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Freedom of Information Bylaw:

23/104 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw:

THAT the Board move Bylaw 4-23, Freedom of Information Bylaw, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Indemnification Bylaw:

23/105 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen:

THAT the Board move Bylaw 3-23, Indemnification Bylaw, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Reports:

Student Trustees Kabrie Hartwell and Matthew Williams provided Trustees with their perspective on what being a meaningfully engaged student looks like. A teacher's recognition of individual learning needs was a priority as well as students having a voice in what and how they are learning. They also expressed their appreciation of the indigenous curriculum and trades programs for a tangible learning experience.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Chenoweth was not present to report on Collettsville Elementary and SCIDES.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks 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.

Trustee Branch Meeting Report:

Trustees spoke to the highlights of the BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch Meeting held on October 13-14, 2023. Appreciation was given to Nicola-Canford Elementary and NVIT for allowing the use of their facilities for the event.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD


None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Rainer. The Open meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer

