

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023, 6:00P.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
	Student Trustees	H. Clarke 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

23/113 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

23/114

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held November 8, 2023, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

REPORTS:

Closed Meeting held November 8, 2023

Closed Meeting held November 11, 2023

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

The Superintendent provided an update on activities related to Indigenous Education within the District. Items included an update on our Local Education Agreement, adult dogwood data, six-year completion rates, attendance support, the recent Chief and Trustees meeting, and a First Nations Education Steering Committee Conference presentation by Nicola-Canford Elementary School Principal Burt Bergmann and teacher Ms. Angela McIvor.

District Vice-Principal of Early Learning Report:

Daniella Bennie, District Vice-Principal of Early Learning and Child Care, provided the Board with an update on the numerous Early Learning and Child Care initiatives the District has been working on. These include: B.C. After School Sports and Arts Initiative (ASSAI), Seamless Day, StrongStart BC, Changing Results for Young Children (CR4YC), and Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2KT).

South Central Interior Distance Education School Enrollment Update:

Superintendent McNiven provided Trustees with a breakdown of South Central Interior Distance Education enrolment. More detailed student demographic information will be provided at a future meeting.

Education Committee Terms of Reference:

Trustees were provided time to review a proposed Terms of Reference for the Education Committee. The inaugural Education Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on December 20, 2023.

Superintendent's Report:

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

OPERATIONS**John Allison Elementary School Outdoor Classroom Opening:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with an update on the grand opening of John Allison Elementary School's outdoor classroom on November 17, 2023. The event was attended by many stakeholder groups, including First Nations and Weyerhaeuser, along with Trustee Ward and senior staff. The School District extended its thanks and gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and Weyerhaeuser for their financial support towards the project. Thanks were also given to Mr. Finnigan and the operations team for their efforts in bringing the project to completion.

Merritt Bench Playground Opening:

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with an update on the grand opening of Merritt Bench Elementary School's playground on December 1, 2023. The event was attended by many stakeholder groups, including First Nations, Trustee Swan, and senior staff. The Playground Equipment Program is a capital program funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The School District extended its thanks and gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Merritt Bench Parent Advisory Council, and Merritt Bench School for their financial support towards the project. The Secretary Treasurer also extended thanks to Mr. Finnigan and the operations team for their efforts in bringing the project to completion.

AUDIT AND FINANCE**2023-2024 Amended Budget Update Memo:**

The Secretary Treasurer advised Trustees that the District is anticipating a funding announcement around December 15th from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, that will provide the final operating grant amounts for the school year. Once received, staff will prepare the 2023-2024 amended annual budget that will be brought to the Board of Education for approval and adoption in February 2024.

POLICY AND BYLAW**Indemnification Bylaw:**

23/115

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT Bylaw No. 3-23, Indemnification Bylaw be moved for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Freedom of Information Bylaw:

23/116 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Use of School Property Bylaw:

23/117 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.10 Vision and Guiding Principles:

23/118 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.10, Vision and Guiding Principles, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.20 Board Authority and Responsibilities:

23/119 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.20, Board Authority and Responsibilities, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.21 Role of the Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson:

23/120 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.21, Role of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.22 Trustee Code of Conduct:

23/121 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.22, Trustee Code of Conduct, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.30 Delegation of Authority:

23/122 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.30, Delegation of Authority, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.50 Board Committees:

23/123 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.50, Board Committees, forward for first reading as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.51 Board Liaison Assignments:

23/124

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

THAT the Board move Policy 1.51, Board Liaison Assignments, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.52 Board Representation:

23/125

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

THAT the Board move Policy 1.52, Board Representation, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.53 Okanagan Labour Relations Council:

23/126

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

THAT the Board move Policy 1.53, Okanagan Labour Relations Council, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.60 Board Correspondence:

23/127

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Ward:

THAT the Board move Policy 1.60, Board Correspondence, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 2.30 Public Interest Disclosure:

23/128

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

THAT the Board move Policy 1.60, Public Interest Disclosure, forward for first reading as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS**Student Trustee Reports:**

Merritt Student Trustees Hayden Clarke and Owen Bateson provided the Board with their perspective of how student voice, connection, and empowerment are expressed at Merritt Secondary School. They feel the new student portal should be more accessible and better understood by the student body. Student Trustees would like to see increased involvement in Student Council by the student body. They also find that school hours are challenging – especially for older students trying to balance mental and physical demands with school, sports, and jobs. The Assistant Superintendent offered the opportunity for the Student Trustees to report out as they prefer in future meetings to truly represent student voice.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Chenoweth reported 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 was not present to report on Diamond Vale Elementary and Merritt Central Elementary.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

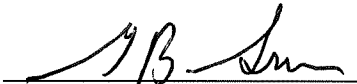
None.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

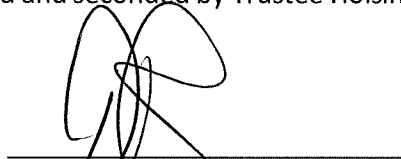
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington.
The Open meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer

