

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024, 6:00 P.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 (ABSENT)
	Student Trustees	O. Bateson H. Clarke (ABSENT)
	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

24/029 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

24/030 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held January 10, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JANUARY 16, 2024

24/031 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held January 16, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION

Merritt Secondary School Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST):

The Superintendent introduced Merritt Secondary School teachers Samuel McKibbon and Ryan Smith who provided a presentation on student engagement and projects taking place in the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies program during the 2023-2024 school year.

French Immersion Update:

The Assistant Superintendent provided an update on the French Immersion Growth Grant. She elaborated on the hiring of a videographer/director to create promotional videos for the FI elementary and secondary schools, the progress of the French Advisory Committee, the contracting of a professional to complete a French Immersion program review, cultural field trips, the purchase of French Immersion resources that offer pedagogy and engagement-specific training for French Immersion teachers, and the “French for a Day” Pre-K Symposiums in the community to promote the intake of French Immersion students.

Truth and Reconciliation – Equity in Action (Theory of Change):

Assistant Superintendent Kempston updated Trustees on the Equity Scan Theory of Change Plan development as well as the changes that we are already seeing within the District based on the work done by the Equity Scan Committee and schools.

Keeping Kids Safe Online and In School:

Senior staff provided a review of the January 26, 2024 Provincial announcement that outlined actions to keep kids and young people safe from online threats, restrict cell phones in schools and hold social media companies accountable. The Ministry of Education and Child Care will be approaching rights holders to consult further.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report:

An overview of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report was provided by the Superintendent. The focus of this report was the District’s approach to continuous improvement, data and evidence, ongoing engagement, alignment and adaptations, and improving equity of learning outcomes.

2024/2025 District Calendar:

The Superintendent brought forward the 2024/2025 District Calendar. The calendar includes the correct number of days in session (191) and days of instruction (184) needed to meet the Ministry of Education and Child Care requirements. After a period of review and consultation, it is being brought forward for Board approval and submission to the Ministry.

24/032

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve the 2024/2025 District Calendar and it be submitted for Ministry approval.

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent circulated his report and spoke to the events that have taken place across the District over the past month.

OPERATIONS

Riverside Learning Centre Child Care Project Update:

Senior staff provided an update on the Riverside Learning Centre Child Care Project. The update included a review of the most recent floor plan revisions, planning for continuity of service, and the upcoming communication for staff, families, and the community.

AUDIT AND FINANCE

2023-2024 Quarterly Financial Update:

The Secretary Treasurer provided an overview of the quarterly financial update for the period, July 1 – December 31, 2023. An opportunity was provided for questions and answers.

Extra-Curricular Travel Costing:

Trustees were provided an overview of the School District's student transportation costs, the changes introduced to schools for curricular and extra-curricular travel costs, and new information from the amended budget to help offset the impacts of the recent changes.

2023-2024 Amended Annual (Final) Budget:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson presented the 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget. An opportunity for discussion was provided.

24/033 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve the \$39,999,398.00 Amended Annual Budget By-Law for 2023-2024 for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/034 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approve the \$39,999,398.00 Amended Annual Budget By-Law for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/035 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move the 2023-2024 \$39,999,398.00 Amended Annual Budget By-Law to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/036 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen:

THAT the Board approve the 2023-2024 \$39,999,398 Amended Annual Budget By-Law for third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

2024-2025 Annual Budget Process:

The Secretary Treasurer presented the dates set for public consultation towards the 2024-2025 Annual Budget, explaining that the School District seeks collaboration as part of its budget planning cycle. The dates for public consultation are: Princeton on Tuesday April 2, 2024, Merritt on Tuesday April 3, 2024, and with the Indigenous Education Council on Tuesday April 9, 2024.

The goal is to present the Annual Budget for first reading at the May 8, 2024, Open Board Meeting with second and third readings to follow at the Board's June 12, 2024, Open Meeting.

POLICY

Policies for First Reading:

The Superintendent introduced two policies being brought forward for first reading. The policies have been reviewed and updated by the Nicola-Similkameen Policy Committee.

Policy 2.10 Addressing Concerns and Complaints:

24/037

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.10, Addressing Concerns or Complaints, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 2.20 Volunteers:

24/038

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.20, Volunteers, forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policies for Second Reading:

The Superintendent introduced the policies being brought forward for second reading. The policies have been reviewed and updated by the Nicola-Similkameen Policy Committee. They have been made available to the public and circulated to both Rightsholders and Stakeholders.

Policy 1.23 Conflict of Interest:

24/039 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board move Policy 1.23, Conflict of Interest, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.70 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses:

24/040 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board move Policy 1.70, Trustee Remuneration and Expenses, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.71 Trustee Professional Learning and Engagement:

24/041 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board move Policy 1.71, Trustee Professional Learning and Engagement, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policies for Third Reading:

The Superintendent introduced the policies being brought forward for third reading. The policies have been reviewed and updated by the Nicola-Similkameen Policy Committee. They have been made available to the public and circulated to both Rightsholders and Stakeholders.

Policy 1.10 Vision and Guiding Principles:

24/042 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.20 Board Authority and Responsibilities:

24/043 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.21 Role of the Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson:

24/044 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.22 Trustee Code of Conduct:

24/045 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.22, Trustee Code of Conduct, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.30 Delegation of Authority:

24/046 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.30, Delegation of Authority, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.50 Board Committees:

24/047 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.50, Board Committees, forward for third and final reading as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.51 Board Liaison Assignments:

24/048 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.51, Board Liaison Assignments, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.52 Board Representation:

24/049 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.52, Board Representation, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.53 Okanagan Labour Relations Council:

24/050 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.53, Okanagan Labour Relations Council, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1.60 Board Correspondence:

24/051 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 1.60, Board Correspondence, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 2.30 Public Interest Disclosure:

24/052 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the Board move Policy 2.30, Public Interest Disclosure, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policies to be Repealed:

The Superintendent introduced the policies being recommended for repeal. The policies have been reviewed by the Nicola-Similkameen Policy Committee. Policy 502.2 is being brought forward in favour of establishing the content as an administrative procedure while the remainder are being brought forward because they provide little guidance.

Policy 502.2 Maintenance of Order and Protection of Students:

24/053 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board repeal Policy 502.2 Maintenance of Order and Protection of Students.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1002.1 Parents' Advisory Council:

24/054 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board repeal Policy 1002.1 Parents' Advisory Council.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1005.9 Surveys:

24/055 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board repeal Policy 1005.9 Surveys.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 1004.8 Civil Defense:

24/056 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board repeal Policy 1004.8 Civil Defence.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS**Student Trustee Report:**

Student Trustee Owen Bateson reflected on what might be the most important things learned in school that are not directly taught by teachers in a curriculum. In his opinion these were communication, task management, how to overcome challenges, teamwork, and collaboration. When asked his perspective on what skills he felt students needed to learn at school that have nothing to do with the curriculum are, he replied with communication, accepting that is okay to ask for help, stress management, real-life math (ie. financial management), creating career documents, and accountability.

Trustee Reports:

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

Trustee Rainer was not present to report 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.

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

Chair Swan and Assistant Superintendent Kempston reported on DPAC. DPAC was inquiring as to whether gaming grants can be used for bussing costs. Senior staff will look into this question and report back.

IEC Report:

Superintendent McNiven reported on the Indigenous Education Committee's meeting on January 30, 2024.

Other Reports:

Trustee Ward spoke to the upcoming BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting in Vernon on March 1 and 2, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Vermilion Forks P.A.C:

The Superintendent presented a letter sent by Vermilion Forks Parents' Advisory Council relating to their concerns over increased bussing costs and requesting a flat rate for in-town trips.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

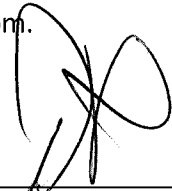
Members of the public that were in attendance indicated that their inquiries were answered during meeting discussion and no additional questions were brought forward during the public question period.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw. The Open Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer

