

**MINUTES**

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024, 6:00P.M.**

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*Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow*

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

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The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair.

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

**AGENDA**

24/063 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of agenda item 10.d, Provincial Council update.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

24/064 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held February 21, 2024, be adopted as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

24/065 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held February 20, 2024, be adopted as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED****EDUCATION****Princeton Secondary School Numeracy Program:**

The Superintendent introduced Princeton Secondary School Principal, Bill Lawrence, and teacher, Peter Van Genne, who provided the Board with an overview of their current grade 8 and 9 numeracy program. This new program focuses on the use of formative assessment to inform instruction and proactively support the learning needs of students. The presentation included a review of the initial results, successes, and challenges.

**John Allison Elementary School Literacy Program:**

The Superintendent introduced John Allison Elementary School Principal, Sandee Blair, and Vice-Principal, Crystal Larsen, who provided the Board with an overview of their current literacy data and student growth.

**French Immersion Field Trip Proposal:**

Assistant Superintendent Kempston provided Trustees with an overview of the proposed Collettsville Elementary French Immersion Trip to Quebec City for Carnaval from February 6 to 10, 2025. A total of 16 Collettsville students from grade 7 will have the opportunity to travel.

24/066 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board support Collettsville Elementary School's proposal for their field trip to Quebec City for Carnaval in February, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited (MMIWG2S) Committee Update:**

Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education, Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte and Nicola Canford Elementary School Principal, Burt Bergmann, provided an update on the work being done by the MMIWG2S Committee across the district.

**Adolescent Health Survey:**

An overview of both the Provincial and local results of the Adolescent Health Survey was provided by Assistant Superintendent Kempston. Information regarding the McCreary Centre Society and The Big Picture: An overview of the 2023 BC AHS can be found at: [Home | McCreary Centre Society \(mcs.bc.ca\)](https://mcs.bc.ca)

**Education Committee Update and Strategic Plan Extension:**

The Superintendent brought forward the information shared during the Education Committee meeting held on February 28, 2024. The following topics reflect the information shared and discussed: review of the Terms of Reference, Engagement Cycle, Strategic Plan Review, District Framework for Enhancing Learning Schematic, and the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report Feedback. Trustees were also provided with time to consider the draft changes to the Terms of Reference and the recommendation to extend the current Strategic Plan's end date to June, 2026.

24/067 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board extend the current Strategic Plan end date to June, 2026, as per the Education Committee's recommendations.

**MOTION CARRIED**

24/068

It was moved by Trustee Jepsen and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the Board approve the draft changes to the Education Committee Terms of Reference.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**District Logo Re-Design Process:**

The Superintendent provided Trustees with an update on the logo re-design process. The process, supported by SOTROPA Communication, will involve a district-wide consultative process occurring over the next four months.

**Superintendent's Report:**

The Superintendent circulated his report and spoke about 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 Childcare construction project. The update included information on the anticipated renovation schedule, continuity of service for The Bridge, Little Seeds Early Learning Centre (licensing and temporary relocation), the Community Theatre, and community pickleball. An update was also provided on the existing leaseholders, Little Seeds Child Care, and the future childcare operator, the YMCA.

**Nicola-Canford Elementary Perimeter Access Update:**

The Secretary Treasurer informed the Board that we have received an update from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that the subdivision plan, which also contains the walking path from Smith/Bailey Roads to Nicola Canford Elementary School, formally dedicates a three-meter-wide road (the walking path). Senior management will now complete an online application for the ongoing use and maintenance of the pathway. There is no fee for the application. Once the application has been received the Ministry Development Services staff will issue a permit to the School District.

**AUDIT AND FINANCE**

**Purchasing and Authorization Thresholds:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided trustees with Policy 202.5 Signing Officers, and Policy 803.1: Purchasing Tendering. A request was made for trustees to consider increasing the policy thresholds when disbursing the aggregate \$10.2 million dollars of funding for the Childcare New Spaces Construction Project at Riverside Learning Centre.

24/069 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

**WHEREAS** Policy 803.1 Purchasing Tendering article 4.7 maintains that the School District will obtain competitive prices for all supplies, equipment, and services when the total order exceeds \$5,000...

**FOR** expenses pertaining to the Riverside Childcare New Spaces Construction Project, **THAT** the Board of Education temporarily increase the threshold in article 4.7 of the Policy 803.1: Purchasing Tendering, from \$5,000 to \$25,000 until the completion of the Childcare New Spaces Construction Project.

**MOTION CARRIED**

24/070 It was moved by Trustee Jepsen and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

**WHEREAS** policy 202.5: Signing Officers, Article 1.1 maintains that both the Secretary Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign non-payroll cheques up to \$5,000... and;

**WHEREAS** policy 202.5: Signing Officers, Article 1.2 maintains that the Board Chairperson and two trustees appointed by the Chairperson and one member of the administration consisting of the Secretary Treasurer or Assistant Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign non-payroll cheques in excess of \$2,000...

**FOR** expenses pertaining to the Riverside Childcare New Spaces Project, **THAT** the Board of Education temporarily increase the aforementioned limits to \$25,000, until the completion of the Childcare New Spaces Project.

**MOTION CARRIED**

24/071

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen that the Board approve the amended motion

**WHEREAS** policy 202.5: Signing Officers, Article 1.1 maintains that both the Secretary Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign non-payroll cheques up to \$5,000... and;

**WHEREAS** policy 202.5: Signing Officers, Article 1.2 maintains that the Board Chairperson and two trustees appointed by the Chairperson and one member of the administration consisting of the Secretary Treasurer or Assistant Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign non-payroll cheques in excess of \$2,000...

**FOR** expenses pertaining to the Riverside Childcare New Spaces **Construction** Project, **THAT** the Board of Education temporarily increase the aforementioned limits to \$25,000, until the completion of the Childcare New Spaces **Construction** project.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **POLICY**

### **Policy Development and Currency Clarification:**

Trustees will review Policy 1.40, Policy Development and Currency and the consultation process. Currently, new and revised policies have been going through a three-reading process as per past practice. This process is not counter to the Policy; however, it is not needed based on the consultation process outlined. The Board will have the opportunity to clarify current and future processes based on the Policy.

### **Policies for First Reading:**

The Superintendent introduced three policies being brought forward for first reading. The policies have been reviewed and updated by the Nicola-Similkameen Policy Committee and, as per consensus of the Board, they will be brought forward for public review and comment.

**Policy 2.40 Corporate Sponsorship and Advertising**

24/072 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.40, Corporate Sponsorship and Advertising, forward for first reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Policy 2.50 Scholarships and Bursaries:**

24/073 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.50, Scholarships and Bursaries, forward for first reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Policy 2.60 Diversity and Respectful Environments:**

24/074 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.60, Diversity and Respectful Environments, 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 2.10 Addressing Concerns and Complaints:**

24/075 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Policy 2.20 Volunteers:**

24/076

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board move Policy 2.20, Volunteers, forward for first 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 1.23 Conflict of Interest:**

24/077

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 1.23, Conflict of Interest, forward for third and final reading.

**MOTION CARRIED****Policy 1.71 Trustee Professional Learning and Engagement:**

24/078

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

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

**MOTION CARRIED****Policy 1.70 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses:**

24/079

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board table Policy 1.70, Trustee Remuneration and Expenses, for third and final reading, bringing it forward at the next Board of Education meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**



## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **Student Trustee Reports:**

Student Trustees Kabrie Hartwell and Matthew Williams provided Trustees with their update on the educational highlights and current events at Princeton Secondary School. These included sports, graduation preparations, the upcoming trip to Italy.

Both student trustees spoke to their perspective on how school washrooms and changerooms could be made to feel safer and more comfortable for students.

### **Trustee Reports:**

Assistant Superintendent Kempston presented Trustee Chenoweth's report on Collettsville Elementary and SCIDES.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Vice-Chair Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Vice-Chair Ward presented Trustee Kent-Laidlaw's report on Princeton Secondary School.

Trustee Jepsen reported on Diamond Vale Elementary and Merritt Central Elementary.

Chair Swan was not present to report on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary School.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### **BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting:**

Vice-Chair Ward, Trustee Rainer and Secretary Treasurer Richardson provided an overview on the recent BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting held in Vernon on March 1-2, 2024.

### **Provincial Council Update:**

Trustee Rainer provided his update on the BCSTA's Provincial Council meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE****Battle of the Books Invitation:**

The Secretary Treasurer presented a letter from the librarian team at Merritt Secondary School. They are inviting a trustee representative to serve as a host for their annual Battle of the Books event on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and Trustee Jepsen offered to attend as hosts.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

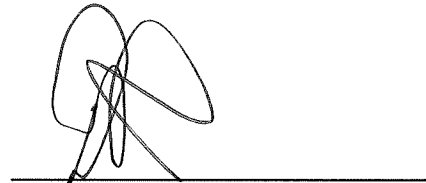
None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Jepsen. The Open Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer