

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024, 6:00P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Chairperson	L. Ward
	Trustees	J. Jepsen J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth D. Rainer (ABSENT)
	Student Trustees	H. Clark (ABSENT)
		O. Bateson
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston (ABSENT)
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	J. McGifford

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

MINUTES

24/082

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

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held March 13, 2024, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

EDUCATION

Ed Plan Insight Presentation

The Superintendent presented Trustees with an overview of the in-district database system, Ed Plan Insight. Topics discussed during the presentation included newly developed literacy assessment data, class profiles, tools, current applications, and next steps.

Local Education Agreement Update:

The Superintendent provided an update on the implementation of the Local Education Agreement and Bill 40. Topics included an update on the Local Education Agreement Committee, language programs, data sharing, hiring processes and Terms of Reference, the School of Choice process, transportation, budget consultation, and future priorities.

Early Learning Update:

District Vice-Principal of Early Learning and Child Care, Daniella Bennie, provided Trustees with an update on Riverside Learning Centre's child care plans, Ready Set Learn and Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT). Ms. Bennie introduced Kate Fretz and Mahtab Azadeh from KMBR Architects & Engineers Consortium Ltd, who shared three-dimensional renderings of the Riverside Learning Centre child care space.

Graduation Ceremonies and Year End Activities:

Trustees were provided with an agenda of year-end activities with the opportunity to select which events they would like to attend.

2024/2025 Budget Consultation Update:

Senior staff provided an update on the 2024-2025 budget consultation process. To date, the areas of Connection and Appreciation/Respect have come forward as priorities. Upcoming consultation opportunities include meeting with the Indigenous Education Council, rightsholders and online input. Public input can be provided to the Secretary Treasurer until April 19th with the goal of the 2024-2025 Annual Budget being presented to the Board for first reading at the May, 2024 Open Board Meeting.

Superintendent Search Process:

The Secretary Treasurer provided an update that The Board of Education for Nicola Similkameen Public Schools has accepted the Notice of Retirement from Superintendent of Schools, Stephen McNiven. The Board has hired Leaders International to manage the search process. Search protocols are in alignment with our District Strategic Plan and our Local Education Agreement. A description of the process was provided with August 1, 2024, being identified as the potential hire date.

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:**Capital Plan By-Law:**

The Secretary Treasurer updated Trustees with the outcome of the 2024-2025 Capital Plan that was submitted to the Ministry on June 30, 2023. An overview of the 2024-2025 Capital Plan Funding Agreement and 2024-2025 Capital Plan By-Law No. 2024/25-CPSD58-01 for Ministry-approved projects was provided.

24/083 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT 2024-2025 Capital Plan By-Law No. 2024/25-CPSD58-01 be moved for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/084 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the 2024-2025 Capital Plan By-Law No. 2024/25-CPSD58-01 be moved for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/085 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT the 2024-2025 Capital Plan By-Law No. 2024/25-CPSD58-01 be moved to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/086 It was moved by Trustee Jepsen and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the 2024-2025 Capital Plan By-Law No. 2024/25-CPSD58-01 be approved for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

AUDIT AND FINANCE**2022-2023 Targeted Dollars Update:**

The Secretary Treasurer informed Trustees that the Ministry has approved the underspending of targeted dollars for the 2022-2023 school year, totalling \$27,151. These dollars have been brought forward and included with the 2023-2024 budget.

2024-2025 Estimated Operating Grants:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson provided Trustees with the estimated Operating Grants for the 2024-2025 school year, as published by the Ministry on March 15, 2024. The estimated Operating Grants will form the basis of the 2024-2025 annual budget.

Budget planning is underway with plans to bring the 2024-2025 Annual Budget for first reading during the Open Board Meeting in May, 2024.

POLICY**a) Public Consultation:**

The Superintendent presented Policy 1.70 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses (previously moved for first and second reading). Trustees discussed the differences between how each position is calculated related to cost-of-living adjustments. Under the current language in the policy, a percentage (based on CPI) is used for the Board Chairs position while a fixed dollar adjustment is used for the Vice-Chair and Trustee positions. Trustees agreed that the CPI percentage approach should be used for all three positions. Despite this policy previously being approved for first and second readings, it will be sent back to the Nicola-Similkameen Policy Committee for further review and public consultation before moving to third and final reading.

24/087

It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT Policy 1.70 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses be amended so that the CPI percentage approach is applied to all Trustee positions when determining increases.

MOTION CARRIED**b) Approval:**

The Superintendent introduced three policies being brought forward for approval. The policies have been reviewed and updated by the Nicola- Similkameen Policy Committee. They have also been made available to the public and circulated to both rightsholders and stakeholders.

Policy 2.40 Corporate Sponsorship and Advertising

24/088

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 2.50 Scholarships and Bursaries:

24/089

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 2.60 Diversity and Respectful Environments:

24/090

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

THAT the Board move Policy 2.60, Diversity and Respectful Environments, forward for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

c) 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 2.10 Addressing Concerns and Complaints:

24/091

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.10, Addressing Concerns or Complaints, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy 2.20 Volunteers:

24/092

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 2.20, Volunteers, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Owen Bateson provided Trustees with his powerpoint presentation showcasing the educational highlights and current events at Merritt Secondary School. These included sports, graduation preparations, SD58 Rocks, and a recent student trip to Italy.

He also spoke to the many events occurring at the elementary level.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Chenoweth reported on Collettsville Elementary and SCIDES.

Trustee Rainer was not present to report on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported that Nicola Canford Elementary is meeting this coming Monday.

Trustee Ward reported that Vermilion Forks Elementary is meeting next Thursday.

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

Trustee Jepsen reported on Merritt Central Elementary. Diamond Vale Elementary School's meeting was rescheduled to next week.

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

OTHER REPORTS

BCSTA AGM is next week with most of the Board planning to be in attendance. A report on the event will be provided at next month's meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE**National Reconciliation Partnership Award:**

The Board Chair presented a letter from the Canadian School Boards Association. They have established a National Reconciliation Partnership Award that will recognize meaningful partnerships between Indigenous communities and publicly funded school boards from across Canada, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit school boards and educational authorities.


It was recommended by the Board that Rightsholders are consulted prior to submitting an application and the Board Chair will connect with local Chiefs for further discussion.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD


None.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer