

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan (ABSENT)
	Vice-Chair	L. Ward
	Trustees	J. Jepsen J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth D. Rainer
BSENT)	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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

MINUTES

24/096

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

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held April 10, 2024, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

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

24/097

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

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

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING HELD APRIL 10, 2024

24/098

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

THAT the report of the Closed Meeting held April 10, 2024, be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION

Princeton Secondary School – Trip to Italy

Student Trustee Kabrie Hartwell presented on the recent trip that 18 Princeton Secondary School and 19 Merritt Secondary School students and staff took to Italy last month.

SD58 Rocks Presentation:

Senior staff introduced District Trades Coordinator, Kevin McGifford. He, together with Princeton Secondary School student Madison Letourneau, presented on the inaugural SD58 Rocks project. Thanks were expressed to the many community groups that came together and donated their time, equipment, and resources to make this event possible.

Strategic Plan – Communication Plan / Visual Identity Update:

Superintendent McNiven introduced Jeff Sotropa from SOTROPA Communications. Trustees were provided with an update on the progress being made on the Communication Plan Review as well as the Visual Identity refresh process.

Truth and Reconciliation – Equity Scan Report:

Senior staff reported that the Equity Scan Committee has completed the Theory of Change Process – Path Forward. Information was shared with Trustees with the understanding that the final formatted document will be completed and communicated externally by the end of June. Thanks were extended to the Equity Scan Committee for their commitment to this important work as well as to those that provided input and feedback during the process.

French Immersion Program Update:

The Assistant Superintendent provided an update on the FIM Growth Grant related work that has taken place to date. Gratitude was given for the financial support and the opportunity to enhance and improve the FI program within SD 58. This funding is provided by the Government of Canada to provide more students with access to FI programs and to increase bilingualism in British Columbia.

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:**2024-2025 Annual Facility Grant Plan:**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2024/2025 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) for consideration and support. Upon approval, the AFG plan will be submitted to the Ministry (due May 19, 2024). The enclosed submission plan encompasses 48 projects carefully chosen in collaboration with school principals, maintenance personnel, and mechanical engineers, that address immediate needs within our educational facilities. The diligent process of engaging engineers, gathering quotes, and consulting stakeholders commenced throughout the school year, culminating the compilation of projects for review.

24/099

It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the board support and submit the 2024-2025 Annual Facilities Grant Plan.

MOTION CARRIED**AUDIT AND FINANCE****2023-2024 Quarterly Financial Update:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided a copy of the quarterly financial update for the period, July 1, 2023– March 31, 2024. An overview of the report was given followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

2024-2025 Annual Budget:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson presented the 2024-2025 Annual Budget with a total budget by-law of \$39,998,694, built on the enrolment projection and estimated funding grants provided by the Ministry of Education and Childcare. The September enrolment count followed by the funding announcement in December will form the basis for the Amended Annual Budget that will be prepared and presented to the Board of Education in February 2025.

24/100

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw be approved for FIRST reading.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY

a) Interim Update and Consultation:

The Superintendent presented a copy of Policy 502.1 Code of Conduct for Students. An interim amendment has been completed in order to meet the Ministerial requirements regarding the use of personal digital devices. The interim amendment has been completed to meet the Ministry deadline. The district will be bringing the policy forward to the Policy Committee for a wholesome review in the near future.

Policy 502.1 Code of Conduct for Students

24/101

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

THAT the Board move Policy 502.1, Code of Conduct for Students, forward as amended to meet ministerial requirements regarding the use of personal digital devices.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Matthew Williams provided Trustees with his reflections on how the public-school experience has prepared him for the remainder of his high school years. Student Trustee Williams stated that more education on financial life skills and career opportunities would be helpful. He also expressed that learning in a safe space will provide young students entering public school with the security to embrace growth and learning.

Student Trustee Hartwell offered her reflections on how her public-school experience has prepared her for life after graduation. She acknowledged her role as a Student Trustee in building confidence and professionalism. She also provided an update on recent events at Princeton Secondary School.

Thanks were given to both Kabrie and Matthew for their time and commitment as Student Trustees for the 2023-2024 school year. Their contributions to the Board have been genuinely valued. The Board also wishes Kabrie the greatest of success after graduation.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES. Colletville Elementary is meeting next week.

Trustee Rainer presented on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported that Nicola Canford Elementary.

Vice-Chair Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

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

BCSTA Annual General Meeting

Trustees provided their report on the highlights of the recent BCSTA Annual General Meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Jepsen. The Open meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer

