

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024, 6:00P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Vice-Chair	L. Ward
	Trustees	J. Jepsen J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington J. Chenoweth D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	H. Clark 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

MINUTES

24/106 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held May 8, 2024, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MAY 21, 2024

24/107 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held May 21, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

EDUCATION**Health Promoting Schools Coordinator /Feeding Futures Update:**

Lisa Nelson-Smith, Health Promoting Schools Coordinator, provided her presentation and update on Health Promoting Schools and Feeding Futures. She highlighted Open Parachute, Preventure, Roots of Empathy, Feeding Futures, and Physical Literacy programs as well as the District Track Meet.

Truth and Reconciliation – Year in Review:

The Superintendent and Director of Indigenous Education, Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte, provided Trustees with an overview of Indigenous Education activities during the year and a preview of planned 2024-2025 activities. This update included a review of the District's progress in meeting the new requirements under Bill 40. This included Indigenous Education Councils, School of Choice, and model Local Education Agreements. The 2024-2025 Indigenous Events and Activities schedule was also provided.

2023-2024 Leadership Development Program:

Senior staff provided Trustees with a review of the Leadership Development Program. Topics covered during the program included an introduction to Educational Leadership, Truth and Reconciliation – Decolonizing Leadership Practices, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights, Enhancing Student Learning and Pedagogical Leadership, Human Resources and Labour Relations, School Management / Budgeting and District Finance.

Summer Learning Program:

The Superintendent provided an update on 2024 Summer Learning Support. Current planning includes the posting of four summer learning teaching positions (two teaching positions in Merritt and two in Princeton) that will provide community-based summer outreach for students of SD58, both at schools and in the community.

Child Care Update:

Trustees were provided with an update on the progress being made at Riverside Learning Centre as well as preliminary results of a District Survey regarding childcare needs in the north end of the District.

The Board of Education's Wildfire Covenant Bylaw (Section 219) pertaining to the renovations of Riverside Learning Centre was brought forward for approval.

24/108 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
THAT the Wildfire Covenant Agreement Bylaw be approved for first reading as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

24/109 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
THAT the Wildfire Covenant Agreement Bylaw be approved for second reading as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

24/110 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
THAT the Wildfire Covenant Agreement Bylaw be moved to third reading as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

24/111 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
THAT the Wildfire Covenant Agreement Bylaw be approved for third and final reading as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent's Report:

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

OPERATIONS:

2025-2026 Major/Minor 5-Year Capital Plan Submission:

The Secretary Treasurer explained that we are currently in the process of preparing our Major and Minor Capital Submission, and outlined the projects that will need approval from the Board to proceed with the submission. With the Board's approval, senior staff will complete the submission of the 2025/26 5-year Capital Plan for major/minor projects. Once submitted, the Ministry will complete a six-month review of all projects across the province and provide a response letter to the Board in early 2025 with projects that have been approved by the Ministry.

24/112

It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT The Board of Education approved the submission of the 2025/26 Five-Year Capital Plan as distributed and presented by the Secretary Treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED

OPERATIONS

Operations Manager Update:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson introduced Operations Manager, Darrell Finnigan who presented his update on school district operations over the past year including work orders, bussing, HVAC, vandalism, and radon testing. The Operations Team continue to monitor radon levels; mitigation work thus far has shown favorable results while the school district engages with an engineer to plan out the school district's long term strategy for radon control.

AUDIT AND FINANCE

2024-2025 Annual Budget Bylaw:

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2024-2025 Annual Budget, being brought forward for SECOND and THIRD reading, and highlighted budgetary changes. The Annual Budget is represented by Schedule 2 (Operating), Schedule 3 (Special Purpose), and Schedule 4 (Capital) for a total budget bylaw amounting to \$40,474,042. The 2024-2025 Operating Budget intends to draw down the School District's accumulated operating surplus by \$-525,678.

24/113

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

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

MOTION CARRIED

24/114

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

THAT the 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw be moved to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/115

It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw be approved for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY**Policy Approval:**

The Superintendent presented a copy of Policies 502.1 - Code of Conduct for Students and 1.70 - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses. He noted the District is completing an interim amendment to meet the Ministerial requirements regarding the restriction of personal devices during class time. The School District has received the following feedback: that the storage and security of student devices be addressed at each school thereby ensuring the safety of the technology, and that a definition of personal devices be considered to provide more clarity

In response to the feedback, it is the recommendation that an administrative procedure requirement and definition be added to the interim amendment.

No additional feedback on the circulation of Policy 1.70 - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses has been provided.

24/116

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

24/117

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board move Policy 1.70, Trustee Remuneration and Expenses, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED**Policy Consultation:**

The Superintendent presented Policies 320.0 - Admission of Fee-Paying Students, 3.40 - French Immersion, and 3.60 - Learning Commons that are being forward for public feedback and consultation.

24/118

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board move Policies 320.0, Admission of Fee-Paying Students, 3.40 - French Immersion, and 3.60 - Learning Commons forward for public review and consultation.

MOTION CARRIED

24/119

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

THAT the Board move Policy 3.50, Indigenous Languages and Culture, forward to the Local Education Agreement Committee for consultation and feedback.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Owen Bateson provided Trustees with his perspective on how he feels the public-school experience has prepared him for what's coming next and what he wishes he could have had more of. He feels MSS prepared him well academically; however, he wishes more life skills could be offered and provided financial planning and study tips as examples for consideration.

Student Trustee Haidyn Clarke was asked what she wishes the school experience will be like for children entering kindergarten this year and how the Board can support those students in the years ahead. She hopes that their high school experience fulfills their expectations and that they know how supported they are. She believes that the Board should support teachers' mental health as it significantly impacts the quality of their teaching and relationships with students. She would also like to see more teaching supports for students transitioning from Grade 7 into Grade 8.

Thanks were given to both Haidyn and Owen 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 Owen the greatest of success after graduation.

Indigenous Education Committee Report:

The Superintendent provided a review of the recent IEC Committee meeting. The Committee will be meeting over the summer to discuss the IEC support dollars and how they would like to see additional funding spent. He also spoke to the IEC scholarships and updates, summer learning supports, and the development of the Indigenous Languages and Culture Policy that is being forwarded to the LEA for consultation and feedback.

P.A.C Reports:

Trustee Hoisington reported that Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES. Colletville Elementary held their last meeting in May.

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

Trustee Jepsen was absent to report on Merritt Central and Diamond Vale Elementary Schools.

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

Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

D.P.A.C Report:

The Assistant Superintendent was pleased to report that the DPAC has decided to use allocated Mental Health Grant dollars to reengage with Dr. Jody Carrington in support of parents and families across the District. She commends the DPAC group for their resilience and collaboration.

Other Reports:**Superintendent Search Update:**

The Board Chair and Secretary Treasurer Richardson provided an update on the Superintendent Search Process. Initial interviews have been completed and in-person interviews will be held in the coming weeks with the goal to have a new Superintendent in place for the September start to the school year.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Transportation Letter:**

Board Chair Swan presented a letter sent to the Board from a Princeton resident regarding bussing. This letter will be forwarded to the Operations Reps for review with feedback and then brought back to the Board.

New OCP Electoral Areas M and N:

The Secretary Treasurer brought forward the proposed Official Community Plan for Electoral Areas M and N. The TNRD would like to consult with Nicola-Similkameen School District, inviting initial comments and any future School District plans for these areas. The TNRD will also discuss the plans in greater detail as they move closer to a first draft later in the fall of 2024, but welcome early feedback

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

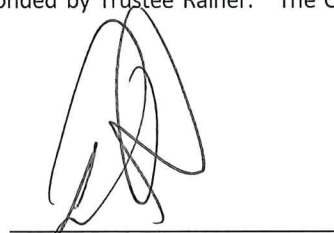
None.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer