

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 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. Clarke J. Davis
	Superintendent	C. Lawrance
	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

24/140 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held September 11, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Report of the Closed Meeting held September 11, 2024.

EDUCATION

Enrolment Update:

The Secretary Treasurer explained that despite the student Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrolment projections for the 2024-2025 (2,027 FTE) being down from last year (2,039 FTE), the enrolment count is thus far 2,089 FTE because of the September enrolment count. Student enrolment will be finalized in October.

The September student enrolment FTE will be used by the Ministry to adjust the grant allocations for the 2024-2025 school year with a funding announcement expected in December, after which, staff will prepare the amended annual budget and present to Trustees in January or February 2025.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Report:

Superintendent Lawrance informed Trustees that the FESL report has been completed and sent to the Ministry. A formal motion is needed to accept the report.

24/141

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Truth and Reconciliation – Indigenous Education Update:

Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education, Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte, presented on Indigenous Education in the District.

Inclusive Education Update:

Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education, Misty Sheldon, introduced the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) partnership teams’ initiative and the support it will bring to children, youth, and families across our School District boundary. She explained how these teams will streamline access to services, ensuring that when young people face challenges like mental health issues or substance misuse, they get timely and appropriate support. An outline as to how this collaborative approach will be implemented and delivered in our communities was provided.

Superintendent’s Report:

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

OPERATIONS:**District Website RFP:**

The Secretary Treasurer explained that an evaluation of both the School District's and school-based websites was conducted as part of the Visual Identity Assessment by Sotropa Communications.

Sotropa Communications recommended that the School District consider a new web platform that is fully integrated between the District and school-based websites, is easy to use, and uses consistent document templates/formats. A new website platform would be a finishing touch on the visual identity being rolled out by the School District.

24/142

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

THAT the Board support the Request for Proposal (RFP) for district and school-based websites.

MOTION CARRIED**Trans Mountain Pipeline Donations:**

Secretary Treasurer Richardson informed Trustees that Nicola-Similkameen School District received donations of office supplies and equipment from the Trans Mountain Pipeline. These supplies were distributed to each of our schools across the School District. The Board of Education extends their thanks the Trans Mountain Pipeline for their generosity and contributions to the Nicola-Similkameen School District.

September 5 Transportation Letter Follow-Up:

The Secretary Treasurer explained that staff have submitted a letter to the Town of Princeton requesting that the Town of Princeton form an ad-hoc committee to discuss infrastructure needs and the increasing demand for public transport.

Trustees were provided with an update on the vacant seats in the school bus heading to Princeton Secondary School when making a stop on Tapton Avenue. At this time, based on current ridership, there are no vacant seats on this route.

Property Update:

The Secretary Treasurer informed Trustees that senior staff have been corresponding with the Town of Princeton regarding the water and sewer lines that run adjacent to the Riverside Learning Centre. This involves the formation of the License Agreement (Sewer & Water), License Agreement (Roadway Access), and Statutory Right of Way (refer to the Closed Meeting held March 7, 2024).

The School District is waiting for the Town of Princeton to provide final confirmation that they agree to all the terms within each agreement.

24/143 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen
 THAT the Statutory Right of Way By-Law be moved forward for first reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/144 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
 THAT the Statutory Right of Way By-Law be moved forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/145 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
 THAT the Statutory Right of Way By-Law be moved forward for third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

24/146 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington
 THAT the Statutory Right of Way By-Law be moved forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

AUDIT AND FINANCE

Trustee Remuneration (Policy 1.70)

Trustees were provided with Policy 1.70 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of December 2023 will be used to calculate the increase to all trustee positions.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3.9% on an annual average basis in 2023 (Enclosed, Consumer Price Index: Annual review, 2023). Remuneration for trustee positions is recalculated as follows:

Position	Annual (Old)	Annual (New)
Board Chair	\$ 23,236.88	\$ 24,143.12
Board Vice-Chair	\$ 21,736.88	\$ 22,584.62
School Trustee	\$ 20,236.88	\$ 21,026.12

Trustees were requested to make a motion to adopt the adjusted remuneration with any approved changes being retroactively applied to December 1, 2023.

24/147 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board adopt the adjusted remuneration with any approved changes being retroactively applied to December 1, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY**Policies for Approval:**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the three policies that were previously sent out for consultation with the School District's partner groups and are now coming back for final approval.

24/148

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.20 Admission of Fee-Paying Students, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED

24/149

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 3.60, Learning Commons, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED

24/150

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.40, French Immersion, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED**Policies for Repeal:**

Trustees were presented with seven policies that have been recommended for repeal and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide as disclosed in the board package.

24/151

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

THAT the Board approve Policy 1002.2, Funding for Parents' Advisory Council, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedures Guide

MOTION CARRIED

24/152

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

THAT the Board move Policy 505.1, Student Records, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide

MOTION CARRIED

24/153 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approve Policy 601.1, Student Records, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide

MOTION CARRIED

24/154 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approve Policy 601.2, Ordinary Resident, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide

MOTION CARRIED

24/155 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board move Policy 602.6, District Technology, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide

MOTION CARRIED

24/156 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approve Policy 605.2 Student Placement Reporting, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide

MOTION CARRIED

24/157 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approve Policy 602.12, Distributed Learning, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedure Guide

MOTION CARRIED

Policies for Temporary Change:

Trustees were provided with Policy 1004.1, Public Use of Facilities, last revised May 8, 2013. The Board was requested to authorize staff to make temporary increases to 1004.1 Schedule A Rates, aligning with the economies of scale that have changed drastically since the policy was last revised. The policy was last revised, May 8, 2013.

24/158

It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the Board approve temporary changes to Policy 1004.1, Public Use of Facilities, to align with the economies of scale that have changed since the policy's last revision on May 8, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORTS**Student Trustee Reports:**

Student Trustees Haidyn Clarke and Jacob Davis provided Trustees with their opinion on what builds an authentic school community at both the elementary and secondary levels. They noted the Link Leaders program, Battle of the Grades competitions, school clubs, spirit weeks, and primary fun days. Both student trustees acknowledged that having open and honest relationships with their teachers played a very significant part in building school community.

P.A.C Reports:

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary.

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

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

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

Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Other Reports:

Congratulations were expressed to Trustee Chenoweth on his recent appointment to President at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD


None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Rainer. The Open meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer