

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024, 6:00 PM**

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 (absent) D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	S. Pioquid M. Williams
	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

24/127

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

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held June 12, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Report of the Closed Meeting held June 12, 2024.

Report of the Closed Meeting held June 17, 2024.

AUDIT AND FINANCE**2023/2024 Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis Report:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with a summary presentation of the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis (FSDA) Report for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Once approved, staff will submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and publish the report on the School District's Website.

24/128

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report and submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

MOTION CARRIED**2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements (Virtual Presentation, BDO Canada):**

Trustees were provided with a presentation of the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements by the Board's Auditor, Mario Piroddi, of BDO Canada LLP. Trustees were requested to make a motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements and submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

24/129

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

THAT The Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

MOTION CARRIED**Multi-Year Financial Plan:**

The Multi-Year Financial Plan is a new reporting requirement set forth by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with a summary presentation of the Multi-Year Financial Plan for the three-year period July 1, 2024, through to June 30, 2027. Trustees were requested for a motion to approve the Multi-Year Financial Plan for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

24/130

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT The Board of Education approve the Multi-Year Financial Plan, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027, and submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

MOTION CARRIED

Carry forward Targeted Funds:

The Secretary Treasurer provided an overview of revenue and expenses for Indigenous Education, targeted dollars, finishing the 2023-2024 school year with a surplus of \$3,529.00 as of June 30, 2024.

Trustees were requested to make a motion to submit a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care, requesting permission to underspend Indigenous Education dollars by \$3,529.00 for the 2023/2024 school year, and carry forward the targeted funds into the 2024/2025 budget.

24/131

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT The Board of Education request permission from the Ministry of Education and Childcare to underspend Indigenous Education dollars by \$3,529 for the 2023/2024 school year and carry forward the targeted funds into 2024/2025.

MOTION CARRIED**EDUCATION****Student Trustees:**

Assistant Superintendent Kempston welcomed Matthew Williams back for a second year as a Princeton Student Trustee. Sophia Pioquid was welcomed as the second Princeton Trustee.

Jacob Davis was introduced as the new student trustee in Merritt with Haidyn Clarke returning for her second year.

We are deeply appreciative of our Student Trustees' commitment to both the Board as well as to representing student voice across the District.

Summer Learning Presentation:

District Vice-Principal of Early Learning and Child Care, Daniella Bennie, presented on the summer learning program Kick Back and Connect that took place across the District over July and August. This program served children of all ages providing opportunities for learning and connection.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report:

Superintendent Lawrance explained that being a new Superintendent and waiting for the required access has resulted in a delay in receiving the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report. Once received, she will review, then send the draft copy of the report to the Board by September 21, 2024. The Board will have the opportunity to provide feedback and the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report will be ready for submission to the Ministry by the October 1, 2024.

Feeding Futures and Student Family & Affordability Grants:

The Secretary Treasurer and Assistant Superintendent explained that the Nicola-Similkameen School District was fortunate to have received a Feeding Futures grant of \$350,000.00 and a Student and Family Affordability Grant of \$ 100,000.00 from the Ministry of Education and Child Care for students and families requiring support.

These funds will be allocated proportionately across the District, using student FTE and the Social Service Index, with 64% going to the North end of the District and 34% going to the South end.

They expressed the District's gratitude for this support at what is a very challenging time for so many.

Logo Redesign:

Assistant Superintendent Kempston presented the Board with two proposed logos and the feedback being given by students in determining what image will represent them and their school communities.

The District is grateful for the work and guidance provided by Jeff Sotropa and to the children in our community for their feedback in the logo selection process.

24/132

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

THAT The Board of Education accept Option One as the new Nicola Similkameen School District logo.

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent circulated her report and spoke about the events that have taken place across the District since the beginning of the 2024 / 2025 school year.

OPERATIONS:

Transportation Letter Received in June:

The Secretary Treasurer referenced the letter dated May 2, 2024, that was presented during the June 2024, Public Board Meeting. As instructed by the Board, Operations Reps convened with senior staff throughout the summer to review the letter.

Trustees were provided with an update on work completed throughout the summer and recommendations being brought forward by Operations Reps.

Chair Swan provided for an opportunity for a question and answer with the public in attendance was provided.

Consensus was reached to set up a meeting with the Town of Princeton and request that they setup an ad-hoc committee, which the school district would be a willing participant, to discuss the town's infrastructure and the increasing need for Public Transit in Princeton.

2025/2026 Capital – Minor Capital Plan Submission:

Trustees approved the 2025-2026 Minor Capital plan for submission during the public meeting held June 12, 2024. The deadline for submitting the Minor Capital Plan is September 30, 2024. Trustees were presented with a copy of the Minor Capital Plan that was updated throughout the summer and were requested for a motion to approve and submit the revised 2025-2026 Minor Capital Plan.

Once submitted, the Ministry of Education and Child Care will review all Capital Plan submissions throughout the Province, providing a Capital Response Letter to the Board for approved projects early in the spring.

24/133

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Ward

THAT The Board of Education approve and submit the 2025-2026 Minor Capital Plan for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

MOTION CARRIED

Merritt Central Update – New Driveway for Buses Only:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson provided an update on the new bus-only entrance to the Merritt Central parking lot resulting from the upgrades made by the City of Merritt to the Vogt Street sidewalk adjacent to the school. The legacy entrance to the parking lot should continue to be used by the public.

School buses now have a reserved area to make their bus stop inside the Central School Parking lot while minimizing the disruption of traffic flow throughout the remainder of the parking lot.

Electric Bus Update:

The Secretary Treasurer explained that Senior Staff have been meeting with Extropic Energy Inc. regarding the consideration of electric buses for the School District's student transportation service. Trustees were provided with a summary of EV School Bus Electrical Systems for Charging followed by an opportunity for discussion. Direction was provided by the Board of Education to forego pursuing electric buses for the School District based on the recommendations resulting from the report by Christopher Wong and Rebecca Yuen, University of British Columbia, November 30, 2022: "Reducing emissions in B.C. Public Schools for British Columbia School Trustees Association"

Nicola-Canford Elementary – Walking Path to Bailey Avenue:

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with an update on the new walking path for students of Nicola-Canford Elementary and citizens of Lower Nicola. The new walking path will allow for the safe passage of students, going from Nicola-Canford Elementary School to Bailey Avenue. The walking path was completed in collaboration with the Lower Nicola Water Works; Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Thompson Nicola Regional District, property owner Mr. Galbraith, and the Board of Education School District No. 58.

Funding for the walking path was provided by both the Board of Education School District No. 58 and the Thompson Nicola Regional District.

The initial walking path has been prepared with fencing scheduled for installation in early October. Students will have access to the walking path well before winter weather sets in.

Gratitude and thanks go to all those that partnered together and made this project a success.

POLICY**Policy Updates:**

The Superintendent referenced the three policies currently out for consultation:

- 1) Policy 3.20 Admission of Fee-Paying Students
- 2) Policy 3.60 Learning Commons
- 3) Policy 3.40 French Immersion

These policies will be brought forward to the Board once feedback is received.

TRUSTEE REPORTS**Student Trustee Reports:**

Student Trustees Matthew Williams and Sophia Pioquot provided Trustees with their goals for their Grade 11 year. They spoke to doing their best in classes, staying curious about learning, being a positive role model and helper, keeping active inside and outside of school, improving grades, saving money for Post-Secondary education and working on stepping out of their comfort zones.

P.A.C Reports:

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.
 Trustee Rainer reported that John Allison Elementary has not yet had their meeting.
 Trustee Chenoweth was not present to report on SCIDES or Collettsville Elementary.
 Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.
 Trustee Jepsen reported on Merritt Central Elementary. Diamond Vale Elementary has not yet had their meeting.
 Chair Swan presented on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary School.
 Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

2024/2025 Board Meeting Dates:

Trustees were provided with provided with an opportunity to discuss and provide direction on the proposed Board Meeting dates for the 2024/25 school year.

September 11, 2024	Princeton
October 9, 2024	Merritt
November 13, 2024	Princeton
December 11, 2024	Merritt
January 15, 2025	Princeton
February 12, 2025	Merritt
March 12, 2025	Princeton
April 9, 2025	Merritt
May 14, 2025	Princeton
June 11, 2025	Merritt

Other Reports:

Board Chair Swan reported that he and the Superintendent have a meeting with BC Housing scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024, to discuss the homeless shelter at the Knights Inn and the proximity to Diamond Vale Elementary School.

24/134

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

THAT The Board of Education send advocacy letters to MLA candidates in both electoral districts expressing the need for increased investment in public education.

MOTION CARRIED

24/135

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

That the Board of Education create an advocacy letter template that rights holders, parents, partners and community members can send to MLA candidates in both electoral districts expressing the need for increased investment in public education

MOTION CARRIED

October Branch Meeting:

Trustees were provided an opportunity for discussion surrounding the upcoming Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting in Revelstoke on October 4 -5, 2024.

The Board will prepare an emergent resolution requesting an extension of the funding for the Feeding Futures Program for submission to BCSTA prior to the Resolutions meeting on October 1, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Transportation Letter Dated September 5, 2024 – Shawna Scafe:

This letter was addressed during discussion on the Transportation Letter Received in June.

City of Merritt Town Hall Meeting:

On September 5, 2024, the City of Merritt held a Townhall meeting regarding the establishment of a homeless shelter at the Knight's Inn, located at the east end of Nicola Avenue. The location of the shelter is 0.68 kilometers away from Diamond Vale Elementary School. The Secretary Treasurer provided a summary on the events of this meeting. An opportunity for discussion was provided.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD


None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Jepsen and seconded by Trustee Ward. The Open Meeting adjourned at 9:58PM.



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer