

AGENDA

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow

1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territories and Metis Community
2. Agenda
3. Minutes
 - a) Open Meeting held November 13, 2024
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Reports
 - a) Closed Meeting held November 13, 2024
6. **EDUCATION**
 - a) Indigenous Education Report
 - b) Early Learning and Child Care Report
 - c) Inclusive Education Report
 - d) Ratification of Local Agreement
 - e) Field Trip – Princeton Secondary Proposal to Portugal and Spain 2026
 - * f) Superintendent's Report
7. **OPERATIONS**
 - a) Contract Renewal – Auditors
 - b) Transportation Update – Late Bus Service

8. **AUDIT AND FINANCE**

- a) 2024/25 Amended Budget Update

9. **POLICY**

- a) Policy Committee Recommendations
- b) Policies to Review
 - a. Appeal Bylaw 5-23
- c) Policies to be Repealed
 - a. 504.1 Health and Safety
 - b. 504.8 Healthy Nutrition in Schools
 - c. 902.1 School District Safety Program
 - d. 904.8 Use of Herbicides

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- * a) Student Trustee Reports
- * b) P.A.C. Reports
- * c) Other Reports

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

12. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024, 6:00 P.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 (Virtually) D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	M. Williams S. Pioquid
	Superintendent	C. Lawrance (Virtually)
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston (Virtually)
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	J. McGifford (Absent)

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer recorded the meeting minutes for the open meeting November 13, 2024.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

MINUTES

24/164 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jensen

 THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held October 9, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Report of the Closed Meeting held October 9, 2024.

EDUCATION

Indigenous Education Councils (IEC):

Superintendent Lawrance spoke to the IEC policy released in August 2024, reporting that the School District's IEC will need to make a few minor changes to conform to the new structure requirements set forth by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Required changes to the IEC will be completed by the end of Spring Break.

Inclusive Education Update:

The Superintendent presented the written report submitted by Director of Instruction - Inclusive Education Misty Sheldon, highlighting the hands-on POPARD training sessions with teachers, and an in-district training session with Jenny Williams, a former Ministry of Education and Child Care auditor, who provided directions to our school teams on how Inclusive Education files should be organized and maintained.

Indigenous Education Update:

Superintendent Lawrance presented the written report provided by Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte, highlighting that the Indigenous Welcome Signs have been installed at the entrance to each school. There was a Culture Camp on October 25th at Shackan First Nation, where participants learned about the history of its Chiefs, toured the green houses and the Welcome Centre, learned about the culture and traditions of sweat lodges, and finished the day making traditional medicine bags and tea. The Culture Camp was a great day full of building connections and time spent on the land.

Early Learning and Childcare:

The Superintendent presented the written report submitted by District Vice Principal of Early Learning and Child Care Daniella Bennie, which highlighted the community benefits of the Strong Start programs and expressed appreciation for the collective efforts towards all of our District's Early Learning programs.

Superintendent's Report:

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

OPERATIONS:

District Website RFP:

The Secretary Treasurer gave an update and a summary of the enclosed Request for Proposal (RFP) for the School District and school-based websites.

24/165

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

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

MOTION**CARRIED****AUDIT AND FINANCE****Quarterly Update:**

The Secretary Treasurer provided Trustees with a quarterly budget update on the School District's spending for the first quarter of the school year, July 1 – September 30, 2024.

POLICY**Policies for Approval:**

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

24/166

It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.10 Student Expectations & Behaviours, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED

24/167

It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 3.30, Student Fees and Deposits, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED

24/168

It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.31, Financial Hardship, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED

24/169

It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.70, Co-curricular and Extra Curricula Activities, as presented for final reading and approval.

MOTION CARRIED

Policies for Temporary Change:

Secretary Treasurer Richardson presented two policies that have been recommended by senior staff for temporary change, until the policies can be formally reviewed by the Policy Committee.

24/170

It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 1004.1, Public Use of Facilities, for temporary change as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

24/171

It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approve Policy 202.5, Signing Officers, for temporary change as presented

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Reports:

Student Trustees provided the Board with their thoughts on their own journeys in Truth and Reconciliation, what has been impactful for them as students, and what opportunities for learning they would like to see more of in school, and why. Student Trustees spoke about what they've learned about the residential school system, and First Nations peoples.

P.A.C Reports:

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettville 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.

Trustee Branch Meeting Report:

Trustee Ward provided a report on the regional branch meeting in Revelstoke on November 4th, 2024.

Other Reports:

Trustee Rainer provided a report on the Provincial Council meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None

ADJOURNMENT:

24/172

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen. The Open meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

**RECORD OF CLOSED MEETING
Held Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Princeton Secondary School**

PRESENT: **TRUSTEES:** G. Swan, J. Kent-Laidlaw, L. Ward, J. Jepsen, E. Hoisington, D. Rainer, J. Chenoweth

STAFF: C. Lawrance, Superintendent of Schools
D. Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Kempston, Assistant Superintendent
L. Rusnjak, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS:

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Education

- Updates provided by the Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent on educational programs and outstanding action items.

Personnel

- Teacher, Support, Exempt Updates provided by the Superintendent & Secretary Treasurer.
- Staffing & Labour Management Updates provided by the Superintendent & Secretary Treasurer.

Operations

- Property updates provided by the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer.

Finance

- The Secretary Treasurer updated trustees on the process used for the preparation of the annual budget as well as the steps leading towards the amended budget.

The Closed meeting was paused at 6:00 so that the Open public meeting could commence. The Closed meeting reconvened at 7:39 pm. Motion to Adjourn: 9:02 p.m.

Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO
DR/kb



NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

FROM: Courtney Lawrance
Superintendent of Schools

RE: INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT

DATE: December 11, 2024

The monthly report from the Director of Indigenous Education is provided for your information.

CL/sc

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT

Nicola-Similkameen School District
Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte
Director of Instruction-Indigenous Education
December 2024



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION - CULTURE (BIG DRUM)



PARENT GATHERING -MSS NOVEMBER 27, 2024

- Opening Prayer - Nte?kepmxcin MSS Students / nsyilxcən MCE Students
- Opening Drum Song – Big Drum – Derek Sheena & Students
- Opening Remarks – Courtney Lawrance – Superintendent
- Inspirational Speaker – Ivy McRae – Academic Dean NVIT
- Hands-On Activities: Break Out Sessions: Oil Blends for healing, Medicine Pouches, Bead Key Chains, Medicine Tea Bags – medicinal uses
- Dinner – Social
- Door Prizes
- Closing / Drum Song

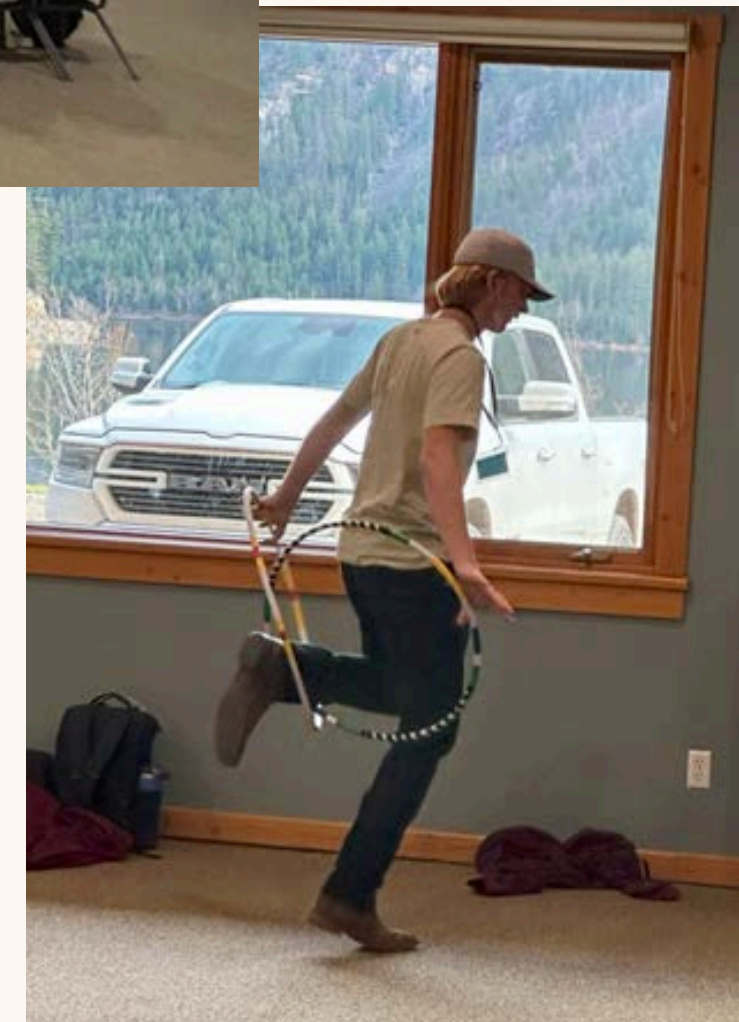


PARENT GATHERING - CONT'D



PSS - YOUTH VOICE GATHERING - EMBRACING CHANGE AT ROCKRIDGE CANYON RETREAT

CRAFTS, TEAM BUILDING, HOOP DANCING LESSONS, STORYTELLING, CONNECTING... FUN!



ROCKRIDGE CONT'D



MERRITT - YOUTH VOICE GATHERING

EMBRACING CHANGE

TEAM BUILDING. HOOP DANCING LESSONS. STORYTELLING. CONNECTING... FUN!

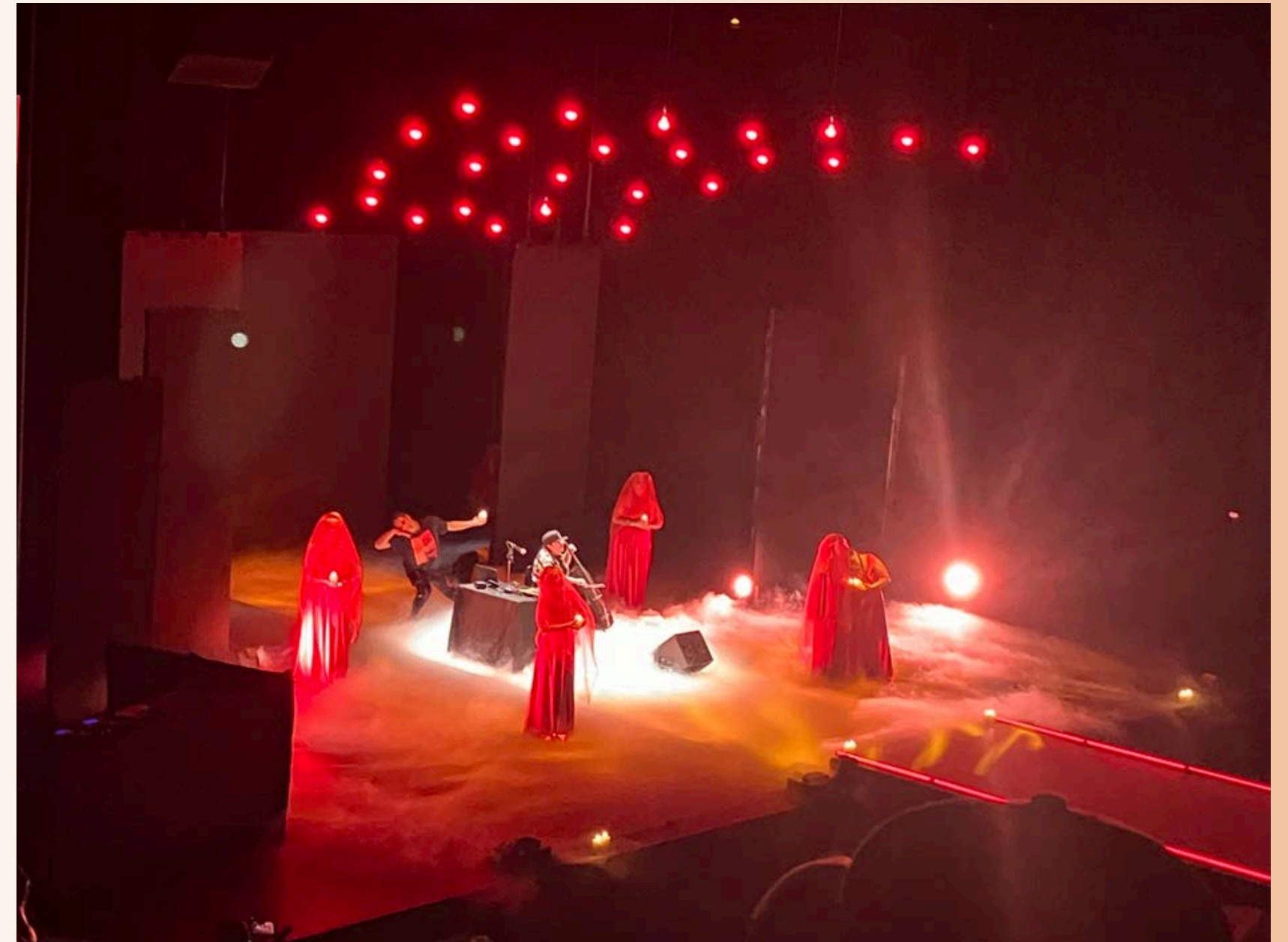


POST SECONDARY TRIPS - UBC, UBC-O, UVIC

- UBC – Toured UBC Campus – Students were introduced to many programs and information was provided on Indigenous programs and services at a presentation at UBC Indigenous House of Learning, Attended Indigenous Fashion Show, Attended Canucks Hockey Game! Rode in a limo.
- UBC-O – Grade 12 students from the region met at UBC-O and were provided a tour and information on career options, information on programs and services was provided. Presentation was provided to the larger group on programs, services, and supports.
- UVIC – Open House with a campus tour and workshop sessions on a variety of topics, student panel, Indigenous Education Centre, Victoria – Tobacco offering at the Beach, Horse and Carriage ride, movie, parade.



POST SECONDARY TRIPS - UBC (HONORING MMIWG2S)

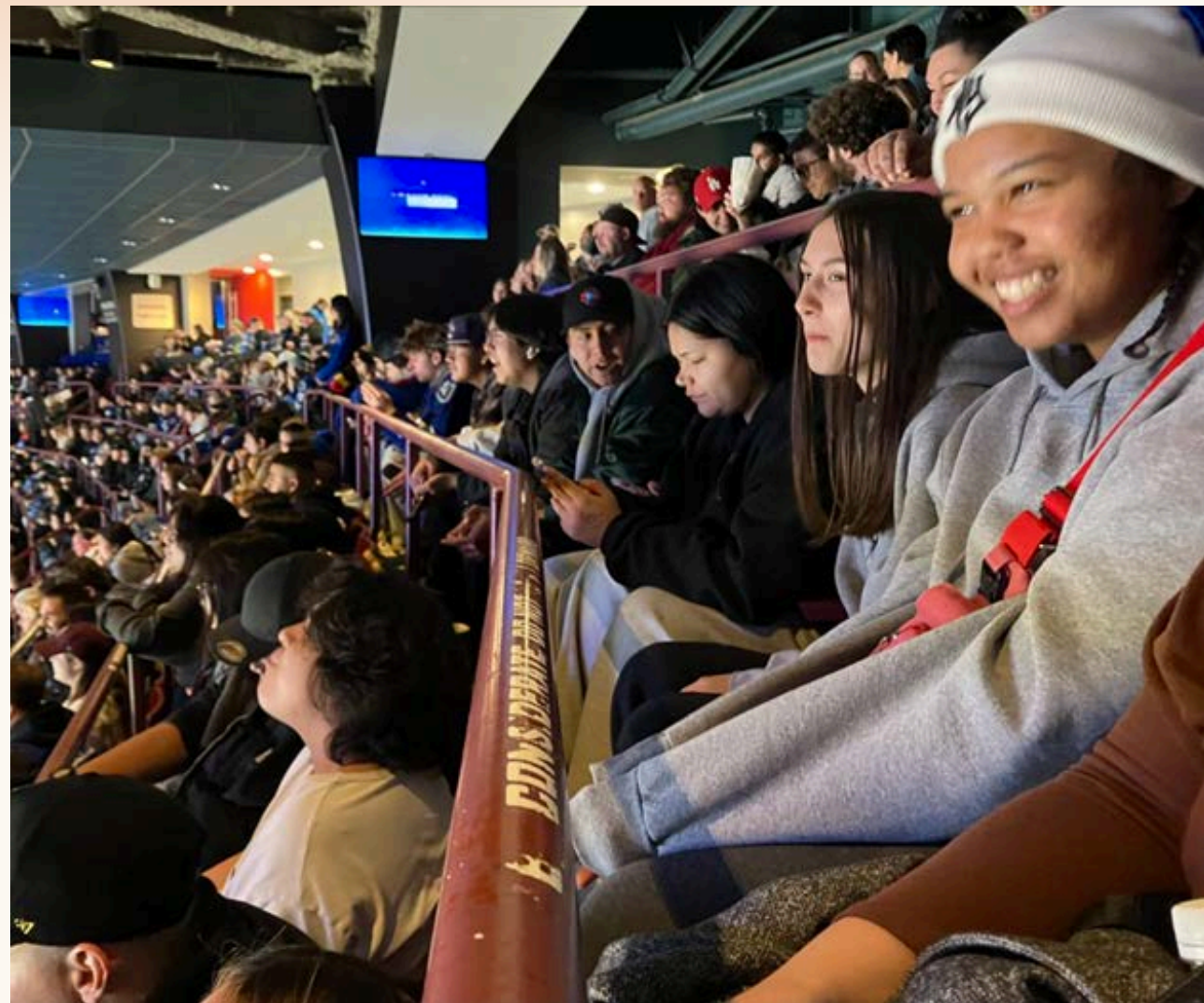
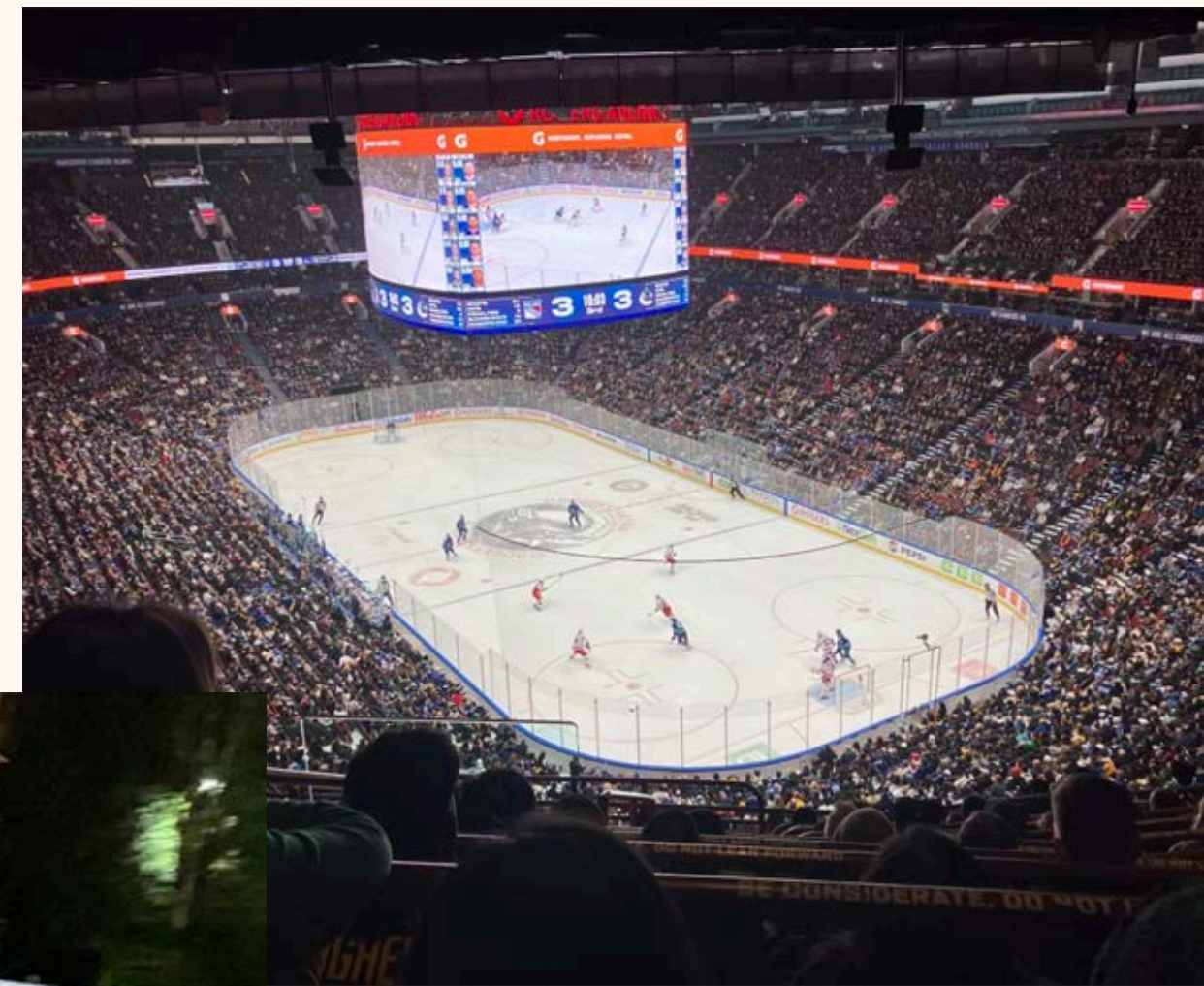


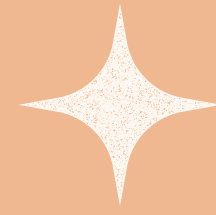
POST SECONDARY - UBC-O AND UVIC





CANUCKS HOCKEY GAME!





THANK YOU

K^wUK^wSCEMX^w

LIMLƏMT

MARSEE



Indigenous Education

INDIGENOUS STUDENT ADVOCATES
FALL NEWSLETTERS





John Allsion Elementary

ISA KRISTA UNRAU
PRINCIPAL CRYSTAL LARSEN
250-295-6727



John Allison has had a remarkable start to the year. The kindergarteners are adapting well to the daily routine and are thoroughly enjoying their time at school. We kicked off the year by preparing for Orange Shirt Day, during which students learned about Phyllis Webstad's story and made personal connections by illustrating their favorite places on the land. In addition to this, we engaged in various art projects and explored numerous stories centered on Truth and Reconciliation. The students have also embraced drumming, learning the Welcome song, "Wind in the Meadow," and "Woman's Warrior." Overall, it has been an excellent beginning to the academic year.



CREE HOOP DANCER JARRED GENAILLE



December 4 After the Bell 3:00 – 4:00 pm
December 9 Carols and Crafts at Ridgewood – Ross, Francis and Chyphya
December 10 JAE PAC 6:00 pm
December 16 Concert rehearsal pm
December 17 Winter Concert 1:00 pm
December 20 PJ Day and hot lunch / Last day before Christmas



John Allsion Elementary



ISA KRISTA UNRAU
PRINCIPAL CRYSTAL LARSEN
250-295-6727



November 8th marks Indigenous Veterans Day. The Grade 3 students participated by drumming, reciting a poem, and presenting to the school about the Nicola Valley Veterans.

As part of our learning experience, we explored traditional medicines through sensory activities—smelling, observing, and touching various elements. Many classes had the opportunity to sample traditional teas accompanied by cookies.

Students also engaged in coloring pictures created by Michelle Stoney. Additionally, we learned about ochre, including its local sources. With permission from the Upper Similkameen Indian Band, we can responsibly harvest ochre by traversing the tunnel and crossing the river, accompanied by an adult. The students also created a pictograph story using ochre, which they thoroughly enjoyed!



In the land of the ancestors, where the spirits roam free,
We honor the brave and the bold, who fought for our land and our sea.
With feathers and beads, they fought for our rights,
Their bravery and heart, shining like the morning light.
In the schools and the halls, we learn of their deeds,
Their legacy alive, in our hearts like drumbeats.
We remember their struggles, their triumphs and their strife,
And the sacrifices they made, for our freedom and life.
So let us honor them, with pride and with grace,
For the Indigenous veterans, we give them a place.

Written by: Mrs. Unrau



Vermilion Forks Elementary

fall newsletter

ISA Krista Unrau



Students at Vermilion Forks Elementary have already had a productive start to the year. We began by observing Orange Shirt Day, during which each class participated in lessons focused on Truth and Reconciliation. Additionally, we engaged in storytelling and artistic projects that encouraged reflection on our emotions regarding the school environment. To foster a connection to the land, students illustrated their favorite outdoor spaces. Furthermore, in Mrs. Clevens' class, we explored culinary activities, preparing dishes that included grouse and vegetables, all made by the students, ending in in a delightful cookie treat.



Vermilion Forks Elementary

fall newsletter



ISA Krista Unrau
Principal Kelsey Batts
Phone: 250-295-6642

November 8th marked Indigenous Veterans Day. During the assembly, students read a poem honoring Indigenous Veterans and articulated the significance of this day, emphasizing the importance of recognizing our Indigenous men and women.

In the Welcome Room, a variety of engaging activities are taking place. Students have been enjoying games, stamping leather keychains, crafting beautiful jars, and much more. The Welcome Room is typically open most mornings and during recess.

The Grade 4 students recently visited John Allison Elementary for their harvest festival. They relished the opportunity to reconnect with peers from the previous year and enjoyed tasting food made from the garden they had helped cultivate last school year. Additionally, they participated in traditional games.

We eagerly anticipate the continued learning and activities for the remainder of the year.



*In the land of the ancestors, where
the spirits roam free,
We honor the brave and the bold,
who fought for our land and our sea.*

*With feathers and beads, they
fought for our rights,
Their bravery and heart, shining like
the morning light.*

*In the schools and the halls, we
learn of their deeds,
Their legacy alive, in our hearts like
drumbeats.*

*We remember their struggles, their
triumphs and their strife,
And the sacrifices they made, for
our freedom and life.*

*So let us honor them, with pride and
with grace,
For the Indigenous veterans, we give
them a place.*

Written by: Mrs. Unrau



Merritt Central Elementary

INDIGENOUS STUDENT ADVOCATES:

Martha Chillihitzia - Gr. 4-7

mchillihitzia@365.sd58.bc.ca

Jody John - Gr. K-3

PRINCIPAL: Natasha Omori

nomori@365.sd58.bc.ca

WELCOME OUR NEW ISA JODY JOHN

My name is Jody John and I am a member from the Shackan Indian band. This is a learning curve for me, in the school setting, but I am very excited to be in this position as the ISA for Central Elementary school.



Primary grade TRC hearts



TRC walk

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION DAY

Central invited Nkwala School to attend out TRC day march through Merritt. We also had classes make buttons (intermediate) with orange shirts and colored in hearts with every child matters shirts (primary).



Grade K/1—coloring



Grade 2/3—coloring



Grade K/1—TRC book



Grade 3/4—TRC book and buttons

TRADITIONAL FOOD/MEDICINES

Primary classes were taught traditional medicines by Dawn and Jody. There was labrador tea, mullen, elderberry and rose hips. Martha talked to intermediate classes about the 13 moon harvesting calendar. Jody talked to the Grade 3/4 class about the importance of indigenous food.



Grade 1 - Tea



Grad 1 - tea bag



Grade 4-7 -13 moon Harvesting



Gr. 1—Tea making



Land walk with Grade 1



Loretta Holmes



Gr. 1—Land acknowledgement

LANDS

Martha invited Loretta Holmes in to speak about the Land & Importance of the Water. Dawn and Jody took the K/1, 1, and 3/4 class on a land walk to collect rocks and talk about the medicines we made tea with. With the rocks collected, Dawn and Jody presented about pictographs and the students painted a pictograph on the rocks. Dawn and Jody also helped create a Land acknowledgement for the Grade 1 class to present at the Bridge opening.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On the MCES Remembrance Day assembly, we had invited Coldwater and Nkwala school. Nkwala school did the Nsyilxcen prayer and Coldwater school did the Nle?kepmx prayer. Martha also had a group of boys drum practice with Derick Sheena to drum at the remembrance day assembly.



Drum group



Coldwater school—prayer



Indigenous dancers



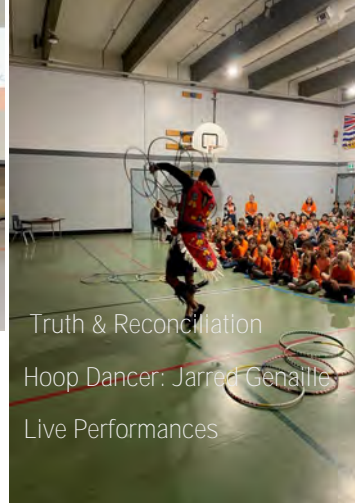
Nkwala school—prayer

BENCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2024 Sept.—Dec. IASW Report



Welcome Dinner—Sep.19th Honoring SD58 Resources, always available: W. Chilihitzia, Rachel Williams, Kowaintco Michel, Paul Joe & Greta Brown.



Truth & Reconciliation
Hoop Dancer: Jarred Genaille
Live Performances



Traditional Dancer
Ayden Sheena



Raven Sheena-Patrick



September 27
Friday

Residential KIRS Survivor, Rachel Williams . Was present & honored.



Jarred Genaille
Cree Hoop Dancer



Safety Walk with Cpl. Jason Olney October 4, 2024



Hand Drumming every Friday
Literacy twice a week
Tuesday & Thursday
Gr. 1 students



Bench Elementary - 2024 Fall Winter Report



Plant Revitalization with
Shona Bara

Oct. 25
Shackan Band
Cultural Camp
Paul Joe
Sharing History



One-on-one with
Grade 4 student,
Stetson Holmes.
Picking medicines.
Several one-on-
ones scheduled
On a continuous
Basis.



Class connections:
Learning songs &
Where to find songs.
Nle?kepmxcin & stories



Basic Phrases



LITERACY



Eight Sacred Values
Including Forgiveness

Class Interactions

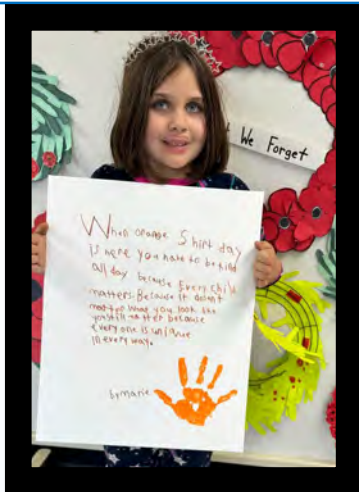
- Nle?kepmxcin, animals, counting & short phrases, body parts
- Hand Drumming—every Friday
- Literacy Tues. & Thursday
- Continuous Presentations
- One –on– one support

Greeting Nlaka'pamxcin Phonetic

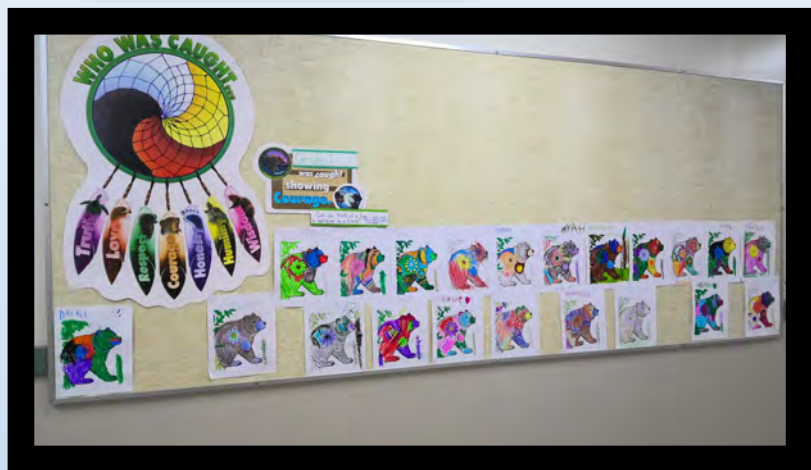
Hello	heñte?	hen-thiha
My name is	nsk'est he nsk'est	n-shkwesht hen-shkwesht
I am from	tuł ____ kn (place)	tuthl ____ kin
It is good to see you (singular)	ýe te swikcn	(y)ee-ah ta shweek-chin
It is good to see you (plural)	ýe te swiktmin	(y)ee-ah ta shweekte-min
I am going to speak	x'uý kn q'incút	wee-kin goin-chut
What is your name?	swét ?e sk'est	shwet ha shkwesht
(it's a) Good morning	ýe ták snwénwen	(y)ee-ah tick shin-wun-wun
(it's a) Good evening	ýe ták sítist	(y)ee-ah tick shedesht
Good bye	humeł	hoe-m'ethl
Thank you	k'uk'scémxw	cook-shchem-mux



Húmeł, Esther Shackelly



Fall times at Diamondvale
with ISA Tanya EDWARDS.
We have been pretty busy
with TRC—Poem by student
Marie, Remembrance Day,
Puzzle times, and 7
Grandfather Teachings—
Courage and Friendship.



Nicola-Canford Elementary

Indigenous Student Advocate: Elizabeth Phillips

Principal: Burt Bergmann

LNIB Orange Shirt Walk



School Mural for Truth & Reconciliation Assembly



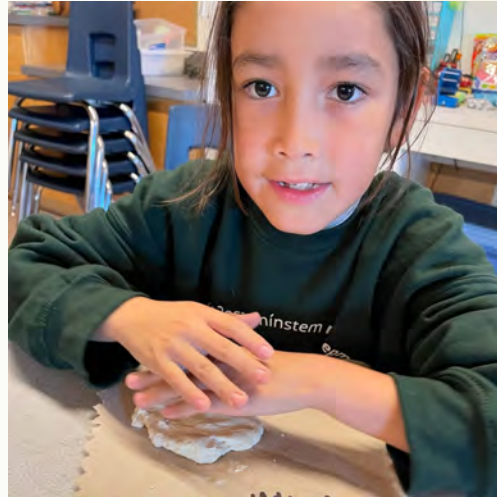
kecé? (Labrador) tea picking & preserving



TEA PICKING

Gr.2/3 Identity, Belonging, Culture Unit

Bannock Making



Breakfast Club

Cooking with eggs from our chickens



Upcoming Events

- Nov 29: Report Cards Go Home
- Nov 29: Month End Assembly
- Dec 6: Hold and Secure Drill
- Dec 12: Christmas Concert
- Dec 16: Christmas Bonanza
- Dec 20: Winter Solstice
- Dec 23-Jan3: Christmas Break
- Jan 6: School Reopens



École Collettville Elementary

Jody Miller, Indigenous Student Advocate

Principal : Brandon Sambrook

Collettville : 250-378-2230



CLASSROOM CONNECTION

Truth & Reconciliation Week

Grade K-3 Read Orange Shirt day book and did a heart activity

Grade 4-7 Read "Monster Poem" by Dennis Saddleman and students made a button

Traditional Tea with:

Grade 2—Madame Bourke

Grade 3—Madame Odegard

Grade 4/5—Madame Berthelet

Harvesting Traditional Medicine

Grade 4/5—field trip to Nooaitch to harvest rose hips/buck brush/mullein

Environment Presentation

Grade 5/6—Madame Livesey



Hello. My name is Jody Miller and I am the Indigenous Student Advocate at Collettville Elementary School. This school is a predominantly French speaking school, so as a non-French speaking person it has had its challenges, but my experience here has been nothing but great!

A little bit about myself. I am a member of the Hupacasath First Nation which is located in Port Alberni, BC on Vancouver Island. I lived in Port Alberni for most of my life and it is a place where I met my beautiful wife. My wife ended up getting a transfer to Merritt in 2004 and we have lived here ever since raising two wonderful boys. Both who graduated from Merritt Secondary School. I started this job in February 2024 and I've loved everything about it. My current roles here have been getting to know the students through classroom interaction, going on field trips, playing sports during recess and lunch, in addition to bringing culture into the classrooms. This job has been nothing but great and I can not wait to see what the future has in store. Should you have any comments or questions for me please feel free to reach out to me at Collettville School.



TRC Heart Activity



TRC Button Making



Field trip to Nooaitch with Gr 4/5 class



SHARING CIRCLE WITH GR 4/5 IN NOOAITCH COMMUNITY



STUDENTS HARVESTING MULLEIN



TRC HEART ACTIVITY

PRINCETON SECONDARY & THE BRIDGE

THIS YEAR SO FAR

This year has been full of meaningful experiences and important milestones. We kicked off September with Truth and Reconciliation Week, a time to reflect, learn, and honor the history and cultures of Indigenous peoples. We also hosted our annual Welcome Dinner for 2025, bringing together students, families, and community members to celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

In October, we took a deeper connection to the land, with a harvest from our lands and an opportunity to learn from the land.

In November, our Grade 9 students attended the Annual Youth Conference, with this year's theme, "Embracing Change".

And that's just the beginning—we've accomplished so much already and there's even more to come!



THE WELCOME ROOM

As the colder months approach, we will be focusing on creating and learning. We'll begin working with Grade 12 students to design and craft their Ribbon Shirts or Skirts to wear to the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony. Stay tuned for an exciting new program coming to PSS, where we'll focus on making sustainable and healthy snacks. Additionally, the Welcome Room is open every day from 3:00–3:30 pm for Homework Club, providing a space for students to get support and stay on track.



Merritt Secondary School

Fall Edition 2024



Health & Wellness

- Nlaka'pamux Health Services Society Youth Wellness Bundle -Group wellness Exercises focused on topics such as grief, depression, suicide, anxiety or bullying.
- The grade 9 'Embracing Change' Conference was hosted at MSS where students participated in Hoop Dancing, Traditional Medicine, Wellness Circle-discussion around self-care, and Indigenous ways of healing, Road to recovery using cultural teachings to keep grounded, and a fun and interactive storytelling and games with Justin Young.

MSS Administration:

Principal: Adriane Mouland
amouland@365.sd58.bc.ca

Vice Principal: David Andersen
dandersen@365.sd58.bc.ca

Vice Principal: Bhupinder Mattoo
bmattoo@365.sd58.bc.ca

Indigenous Student Advocates:

Grade 8: Jo-Anne Mansfield
jmansfield@365.sd58.bc.ca

Grade 9: Erickson Sheena
esheena@365.sd58.bc.ca

Grade 10: Steffanie Michel
smichel@365.sd58.bc.ca

Grade 11 & 12: Melissa Pinyon
mpinyon@365.sd58.bc.ca



Grade 9 Youth Voice Conference



Self-Worth & Identity

The English First Peoples 12 class and Social Studies 10 class connected with Elder Ko'waintco Michel where she spoke about the local traditional medicines and how to use for traditional healing methods. Students were also taught about smudging protocols and how to care for yourself while balancing the demands of being a student in high school.

Health and Wellness

The Nicola Valley Collaboration was developed to support youth and young adults within the Nicola Valley, where service providers meet monthly to develop strategies to address community concerns and develop healthy experiences for youth in the community.

The purpose is to involve students with service providers to bridge gaps of service and support one another to ensure we are connecting in a meaningful healthy way. The agencies attended MSS each month to provide lunch, school supplies, and hygiene items. The engagement allows students to meet the community agencies in a proactive manner to build connection with the supports that are available to them,

Health and Wellness





Culture & Language

Students gather every Wednesday in the House of Honour with Skiellst (Paul) Joe and Derick Sheena for stories and hand drumming. Drums and rattles are provided as well as lunch. MSS is working on bringing the heartbeat back into MSS as they learn the songs and become more confident. It serves as a way to connect with heritage, ancestors and traditions that have been passed down for generations.

Self-Worth & Identity

The MSS Girls group happens every Thursday for grades 8-10. The students start the first half with a cultural activity and then finish with an activity that covers topics such as mental wellness, consent and boundaries, self-harm, grief and loss, relationship with food and body image, safety and harm reduction.

Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to recognize and honour the contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous peoples in the military. MSS gathered in the gym where the MSS band, Cadets and leadership students paid tribute to all veterans. There was also a display of all 104 Nicola Valley Indigenous Veterans Monument.





Academic Success

The Grade 12 students have been participating in Campus tours at various post-secondary institutions. Connecting with Indigenous academic supports and services which are designed to support academic success and cultural identity. This aims to provide a supportive environment that recognizes the unique needs of indigenous learners to ensure there is space created for advocacy and representation in the transition process from high school to university.

Academic Success

- The Indigenous Student Advocates have been meeting one on one with grade 12 students to discuss graduation plans and identifying any gaps that are needing extra supports.
- Students have been reaching out for bursary and scholarship assistance, if a student finds a scholarship they would like to apply for and need assistance, connect is Melissa Pinyon.

Upcoming Events & Activities

- Winter Sports - Basketball and Curling See Mr. Cavaliere for more info.
- Post-secondary application ongoing. See Melissa Pinyon for support.
- Boys Sweat
- Ice Fishing
- Winter Solstice Ceremony
- Hand Drumming & Girls Group every week

Academic Success



- Land based learning fosters a profound relationship between individuals and the natural world. It teaches respect for the environment and the interconnectedness of all living things. Students learned to harvest tea and the gathering of traditional medicines are not only central to maintaining Indigenous cultures but also crucial for fostering a sustainable, healthy, relationship with the Earth.

CLC Community Learning Centre

2975 Clapperton Ave, Merritt, BC 250-378-2157

Principal Adriane Mouland ISA Connie Moojelski

On the Land



Digging for Cedar Roots
September 6th, 2024



Coiled Cedar Root Baskets
September 24th, 2024



Silver Willow Beads



Rosehips



Mullein



Terry Fox Run 2024



Juniper Berries



Harvesting Rose Hips, Mullein, Buck Brush,
Juniper Berries and Silver Willow Beads at



Terry Fox Run



Buck Brush



Monck Park



November 6th, 2024 Wednesday

Kamloops Wildlife Park



It's been a very busy start to the 2025 school year. In September 7 students took interest in beading a medallion, some students are almost ready to bead their necklace part of the medallion. We will also be beading Eagle feather quills, brick stitch earrings. We will be making mini moccasins for Christmas ornaments.

The CLC students learned about traditional Coiled Cedar Root Baskets, ISA Connie brought her huge collection of coiled and slat baskets in and facilitated an in-depth teaching.

In October the students went to Nooaitch to harvest Rose hips, mullein, buck brush, Juniper berries and Silver Willow seeds, they got to make their own tea bags to bring home.

The students thought it was very cool to make Silver Willow beads to make natural jewelry.

The students enjoyed many outings and have gone to Kentucky Lake to hike, Monck Park to see the remnants of pit houses and have a bbq lunch. Laser tag was a big hit in Kelowna as well as The Wildlife Park in Kamloops.

Scw'exmx comes in every Thursday for 'Lunch and Learn' each student has the opportunity to earn money for each time they show up for lunch and learn days. Scw'exmx brings in presenters, learning activities and fun events and they provide a wonderful lunch for the CLC students.



SD #58 Indigenous Education Contact Information



Shelley Oppenheim-Lacerte

Director of Instruction—
Indigenous Education

250-378-5161

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Rose Grant

Indigenous Student
Engagement Facilitator

250-280-3024

rose.grant@365.sd58.bc.ca



Joella Bolan

Nle?kepmxcin Teacher

Merritt Secondary School

Grades 10-12

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Yvonne Joe

Nle?kepmxcin Teacher

Nicola-Canford Elementary

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Angela McIvor

Nle?kepmxcin Teacher

Nicola Canford Elementary

Primary Program and Gr. 5-7

250-378-2172

amcivor@365.sd58.bc.ca



Dawn Williams

Cultural Coordinator

250-378-2230

dwilliams@365.sd58.bc.ca



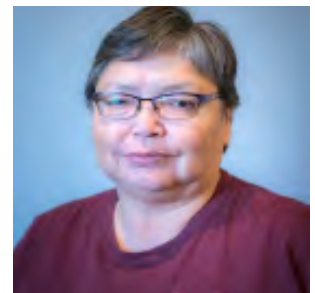
Esther Shackelly

Indigenous Student
Advocate

Merritt Bench Elementary

250-378-2528

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Martha Chillihitzia

Indigenous Student
Advocate

Merritt Central Elementary

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Jody John

Indigenous Student
Advocate

Merritt Central Elementary

250-378-9931

jjohn@365.sd58.bc.ca



Elizabeth Phillips

Indigenous Student
Advocate

Nicola Canford Elementary

250-378-2172

ephillips@365.sd58.bc.ca



Krista Unrau

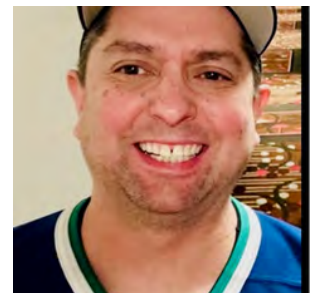
Indigenous Student
Advocate

John Allison and Vermilion
Forks Elementary

250-295-6727 or

250-295-6642

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Jody Miller

Indigenous Student
Advocate

Colletville Elementary

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SD #58 Indigenous Education Contact Information



Tanya Edwards
Indigenous Student
Advocate

Diamond Vale Elementary

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Connie Moojelski
Indigenous Student
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Community Learning Center

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Melissa Pinyon
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Jo-Anne Mansfield
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Alexander Goreas
Indigenous Student
Advocate

Princeton Secondary and the
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Natasha Smith
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nsmith@365.sd58.bc.ca



Nexpetko Joe
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Advocate

njoe@365.sd58.bc.ca





NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

FROM: Courtney Lawrance
Superintendent of Schools

RE: EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE REPORT

DATE: December 11, 2024

Our District Vice Principal for Early Learning and Child Care will provide an update on our After-School Program, Strong Start, and Story Workshop (professional development).

CL/sc



NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

FROM: Courtney Lawrance
Superintendent of Schools

RE: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION REPORT

DATE: December 11, 2024

The monthly report from the Director of Instruction - Inclusive Education is provided for your information.

CL/sc

Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education Report December 2024

****To enhance accessibility, this document can be easily read out loud through various text-to-speech programs. The background color, font size, and font choice are intentionally selected to enhance readability. ****

1. ROOTS of Empathy

Partially funded through the Mental Health Grant provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that fosters empathy and emotional literacy among students. At the heart of the program is a neighborhood infant and parent who visit the classroom throughout the school year, allowing students to observe the baby's development and emotions. Guided by a trained instructor, students learn to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others, enhancing emotional intelligence, reducing aggression, and fostering positive social behaviors. This innovative approach helps create safer, more inclusive school environments and supports the development of emotionally resilient future leaders.

We have Roots in two Kindergarten classes this year. These programs are being facilitated by Lisa Nelson-Smith, our Health Promoting Schools Coordinator, Food Coordinator and Physical Literacy Lead teacher in Merritt and Erin Williams, one of our Strong Start coordinators in Princeton.



2. Family Sessions – Digital Literacy

Through *Erase* and our partnership with *Safer Schools Together* we are pleased to offer seven opportunities for parents and guardians to engage in learning that is designed to support families and caregivers in navigating the digital world.

These sessions cover all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sextortion.

Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.

Families will learn:

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline
- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behaviour as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)
- An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline

3. Spotlighting our ELL (English Language Learners)

-Submitted by Julia vanRossum, Itinerant ELL Teacher

Celebrating Success Across Our District

In my role, I have the privilege of witnessing the many successes that unfold across our district every day. From kindergarten to Grade 12, I am inspired by the achievements of our students and the dedication of our staff. It's not just about the milestones but also the daily efforts of teachers, educational assistants (EAs), Indigenous Student Advocates (ISAs), office administrators, and countless others who work together to create supportive learning environments.

What stands out most in my visits to schools is the warmth and care that greet me at every turn. Staff members greet students with genuine smiles and thoughtful words, creating spaces where children feel valued and supported. This commitment to nurturing students' academic and emotional growth is what makes our district a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Building Leadership and Confidence

At the high school level, I have seen English Language Learner (ELL) students thrive through participation in leadership classes. These opportunities not only engage students with their school communities but also empower them to contribute meaningfully. For instance, several ELL students are actively supporting their peers in reading and science at a nearby elementary school. These experiences help them build friendships, gain confidence, and develop their English speaking skills, creating connections that go beyond the classroom.

Fostering Belonging Through Acts of Generosity

At one of our elementary schools, I witnessed a heartwarming act of generosity. An EA volunteered her time to support a new ELL student in joining the school volleyball team, ensuring they could attend practices and be part of the team. This small but meaningful act helped the student form

friendships and experience success in a space where learning English wasn't the focus, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Remarkable Growth in Language Development

Last spring, a young kindergarten student arrived at one of our schools without any English language skills. Now, just a few months into Grade 1, this same student speaks confidently in full sentences. The progress is extraordinary, a testament to the nurturing classroom environment and the school community's collective efforts to wrap around and support this child. I am fortunate to witness this growth weekly as we work through lessons together.

Representation Through Student Voices

Sometimes, the smallest moments create lasting change. A Grade 4 student recently shared her favorite book series, one gifted to her by her family, written by an author from her cultural background. Inspired by her recommendation, I introduced the series to our school librarians. One school has since added the books to its library, showcasing them prominently. This is more than just a new addition to the collection—it represents a win for diversity, allowing students from varied backgrounds to see themselves reflected in the stories they read. It also gave this student a sense of pride and empowerment, knowing her voice made a difference.

These stories represent just a fraction of the incredible work happening every day across our district. They highlight the power of kindness, dedication, and collaboration in creating opportunities for all students to succeed. It is an honor to be part of a community where learning is enriched by compassion, and where every effort contributes to a brighter future for our students.



NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

FROM: Courtney Lawrance
Superintendent of Schools

RE: RATIFICATION OF LOCAL AGREEMENT

DATE: December 11, 2024

Three successful days of teacher bargaining with the Nicola Valley and Princeton District Teachers' Union (NVPDTU) resulted in a tentative local agreement that needs to be ratified by both parties. We are asking for a board motion to ratify the local agreement.

CL/sc



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161, Fax: (250) 378-6263

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

**FROM: Courtney Lawrance
Superintendent of Schools**

RE: FIELD TRIPS

Date: December 11, 2024

Princeton Secondary School submitted a field trip proposal to Spain and Portugal during Spring Break 2026.

SMcN/sc



School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen)

PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Box 500, Princeton, B.C. V0X-1W0
Tel: (250) 295-3218 • Fax: (250) 295-7914*

Date November 22, 2024

Ms. Jane Kempston, Assistant Superintendent
School District No.58 (Nicola-Similkameen)
1550 Chapman Street
Merritt, BC
V1K 1B8

Dear Ms. Kempston,

In accordance with Policy 603.2, Princeton Secondary School is requesting approval from the Board of Education for an out-of-province field trip. The trip involves 14 PSS and 16 MSS Students who will be travelling to Italy, Europe approximately from March 15th –27th, 2026.

The purpose of this field trip is to explore Portugal and Spain on Spring Break. We hope students gain an appreciation of other cultures, historically significant sights and a passion for global travel. The parents will be consulted on their support and approval for this trip.

Although the plans for this trip continue to be finalized, we have attached a preliminary planning checklist for the Board's consideration. We will continue to work closely with Renée Hartwell and Kirk McConnell to ensure that all policy requirements and conditions for this class of field trip will be met.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Bill Lawrence

SD#58 Board of Education,

In accordance with Policy 603.2, Princeton Secondary School is requesting approval from the Board of Education for an out-of-province field trip. The trip involves approximately 20 PSS Students who will be travelling to Portugal and Spain, March 15-27, 2026.

Here is a very brief overview of the details surrounding our trip:

Precaution on Destination Choice:

Currently, the Government of Canada has issued no Health Travel Advisories for Regions of Portugal and Spain where the current trip is scheduled to go. That information is as follows from <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/portugal>:

Take normal security precautions. *Take similar precautions to those you would take in Canada.*

EF offers many securities to ensure we have a great trip:

1. Peace of Mind Program

- Your group can change current travel dates
- Your group can work with EF to modify your current tour or find a brand-new tour!
- Your group can cancel the tour, and all travellers will receive an EF Future Travel Voucher
- We also have options for individual travellers—to learn what's available to you please call Traveller Support at 1-800-263-2806.

The group's School Board (or travel organizer, as applicable) may also cancel the tour program under EF's Peace of Mind Refund Program with all travelers receiving a refund of monies paid less a service fee of \$499 per traveler and less any other Non-Refundable Fees.

2. EF COVID Care Promise

If a traveller is diagnosed with, or requires quarantine because of, COVID-19 while on tour, EF will provide or arrange for the following, consistent with local requirements, at no additional expense to the traveller throughout the duration of any on-tour quarantine period:

- Lodging and meals
- EF representatives available to support the traveller and to coordinate with local authorities on their behalf where necessary
- Assistance connecting with local health care providers
- Translation services
- Communication between the traveller and the traveller's family back home
- EF arranged flights home, based on existing itinerary, for the traveller once cleared to return

- If the diagnosed traveller is a minor, flights for their parent or guardian to join them at the tour location

If a traveller or group is not diagnosed with, yet is required to quarantine on account of, COVID-19 while on tour, EF will provide or arrange for the following, consistent with local requirements, at no additional expense to the travellers throughout the duration of any on-tour quarantine period:

- Lodging and meals
- EF representatives available to support the traveller and to coordinate with local authorities on their behalf where necessary
- Assistance connecting with local health care providers
- Translation services
- Communication between the traveller and the traveller's family back home
- EF arranged flights home for the traveller or group once cleared to return

3. The Global Travel Protection Plan each traveller will have includes:

- Illness and Accident Coverage
- Baggage and Property Coverage
- Tour Cancellation and Interruption Coverage
- 24-hour Emergency Assistance
- <https://www.eftours.ca/help-centre/safety/travel-coverage>

Destinations: 12 Day Excursion

Portugal and Spain (Lisbon, Seville, Costa del Sol, Algarve, Valencia, Barcelona)

Costs: Package- \$5000

Fundraising! Our goal is to provide opportunities to make the trip affordable for all interested student travellers.

- Taste of Spain and Portugal! -Gala Dinner Event (date tbt).
- NHL Playoff Hockey Pool
- Bottle Drive- August 2025 (following the August long Weekend); both Princeton and Tulameen communities.
- Home-made Take n' Bake Pie Sale
- Gas Card & Save On Foods Card Raffle
- PAC Support Letter of Request for Airport Shuttle funds
- Operation Red Nose- (Adult Volunteers required) November and December 2025
- Individual Fundraising: "We make it easy for travelers to raise funds for their trip by providing an **online contribution page** that they can share with others. Those who decide to contribute can make secure online payments that are applied directly to your tour balance.
- Part-time Job: students have indicated that their preferred method of raising funds is through part-time work, which all may be eligible. Resume and interview support is offered by the group leaders.

- \$200 Early Enrollment Discount (when students enroll at our Specific Enrollment Meeting, Spring 2023)
- Individual Payment Plan: EF Tours provides a few payments options, including monthly or bimonthly installments and through Uplift, students can continue to pay even after the trip, with no fees or penalties.
- EF is working with FlipGive to provide a new way to raise funds for your tour. Earn cash on things you're already buying, and get paid whenever you shop, dine, or book hotels or activities. Invite your friends and family to help contribute — the program is free to use!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Renee Hartwell & Kirk McConnell

PSS EF Group Leaders

rhartwell@365.sd58.bc.ca

kmconnell@365.sd58.bc.ca

PSS: 250-295-3218



School District No. 58 (Nicola Similkameen)

PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL

Box 500, Princeton, B.C. V0X 1W0

Tel: (250) 295-3218 • Fax: (250) 295-7914

November 25, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) works to ensure the safety of all students during curricular activities and extra-curricular activities. The upcoming Princeton Secondary trip to Portugal and Spain has been sent to the board for approval on principle by the Board of Education as a Board Authorized Trip.

Currently, the Government of Canada has issued no Health Travel Advisories for Regions of Portugal and Spain where the current trip is scheduled to go. That information is as follows from

<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/>

Take normal security precautions. Take similar precautions to those you would take in Canada.

As families participating in the upcoming PSS EF Tour trip, please be checking your email for meeting times and updates. Also, it's important that you are checking your EF Profile frequently Please access the HELP CENTRE if you have problems logging in. eftours.ca/

Travel assurance: we will be covered by EFs Global Protection Plan for travel insurance purposes and each adult travelling with be screened through the Sterling Backcheck.

Here is a very brief overview of our trip: The detailed itinerary will be provided 30 days prior to travel.

1. "Your EF tour includes visits to places you've learned about in school. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures-surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life- creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced." This is the purpose of the trip: Experiential Learning!
2. Destinations:
 - Kelowna- departure flight
 - Lisbon- 2 days
 - Algarve- 2 days
 - Costa del Sol- 2 days
 - Granada- 1 day
 - Valencia – 1 day
 - Barcelona – 2 days
 - Home to Kelowna

3. Example of Activities: Guided Sightseeing of Barcelona with your expert local guide you will see: La Sagrada Familia, Park Guell, and La Pedrera.

4. Transportation will include: (tentative plan)

School Bus or Posse bus- Kelowna

Air Canada flights- Kelowna to Lisbon via connecting flight (likely Toronto)

Tour Busses - Several busses will be contracted through EF Tours and our full-time Tour Director. These busses will be our primary source of travel on our trip (no washrooms onboard; be prepared to remove your luggage from busses often).

5. Costs: a) Package- \$5319 (\$6419 Adult)

b) Gratuities- \$110 CAD (approximately)

c) Spending Money- \$500 (approximately, for lunches and shopping)

d) Costs for bus (\$1.39 per km + \$63 per hour for driver) (fundraising may some cover costs). We will update on these costs 30 days prior to travel.

e) Included in package is the \$199 Global Travel Protection Plan travel insurance coverage as mandatory for all travelers

f) \$200 Early Enrollment Discount (when students enroll at our Specific Enrollment Meeting, December 2024)

6. Fundraising! ****It is highly encouraged to have parents involved in fundraising efforts.***

Princeton Fundraising:

Tapas Evening

Bottle Drive

Individual Fundraising: "We make it easy for travelers to raise funds for their trip by providing an **online contribution page** that they can share with others. Those who decide to contribute can make secure online payments that are applied directly to your tour balance. Travelers can find this page by logging into their account and choosing the "Your contribution page" tab." -eftours.ca/help-centre

Individual Payment Plan: EF Tours provides a few payments options, including monthly or bimonthly installments and through Uplift, students can continue to pay even after the trip, with no fees or penalties.

We're working with FlipGive to provide a new way to raise funds for your tour. Earn cash on things you're already buying, and get paid whenever you shop, dine, or book hotels or activities. Invite your friends

and family to help contribute—the program is free to use! Visit our FlipGive <https://www.flipgive.com/eftours> page to sign up and start growing your fund.

7. Tentative Meeting Dates @ PSS

* Required by all PSS Travelers and Parents (Save the Date)

February 26, 2026 - Final Touch base meeting.

-Notarized Student Travel Permission Forms DUE.

-Copy of Birth Certificates needed from families and school permission forms signed.

Meeting Dates @ PSS

December 2024

March 2025

September 2026

February 2026

8. We Advise our Travellers to:

Be proactive in terms of personal safety

Nothing can replace old-fashioned common sense when it comes to being safe while travelling. We advise travellers to leave the expensive clothes and jewelry at home, to always travel in a group, to choose well-lit streets and to be aware of their surroundings and other people at all times.

Be on time

For group travel to go smoothly, each member of the group must be punctual and demonstrate respect to the Tour Director and all travellers in the group.

Keep all possessions in a safe place

Travellers are responsible for their possessions. Valuables should never be left behind in the hotel (unless locked in a safe) or on a bus seat (they should be stored by the driver in the locked luggage compartment under the bus). Personal belongings should always be kept within sight. Also, popular tourist areas attract pickpockets. We recommend that travellers keep money in travel pouches that can be worn under clothes.

Know all the important contact numbers

Your child should travel with the contact information for each hotel on the itinerary. This information is located on the final itinerary, which travellers can access 14 days before tour on their personal website.

Students should also bring the Emergency Calling Instructions card (included in the Preparing for Departure package), which provides instructions on how to dial emergency numbers in the countries they're visiting.

Travellers and parents also have access to EF's 24-hour emergency phone numbers, which are listed on the Emergency Calling Instructions card. Parents can call 1-800-263-2806 from Canada, while travellers can make a collect call to 001-416-927-1911 while abroad.

Upon arrival, the Tour Director will give all travellers a wristband with the emergency number printed on it and students should wear it for the duration of the tour.

As always, please feel free to contact us regarding any questions, concerns and considerations.

Renee Hartwell & Kirk McConnell

PSS EF Group Leaders

rhartwell@365.sd58.bc.ca

kmconnell@365.sd58.bc.ca

PSS: 250-295-3218



HIGHER RISK SECONDARY FIELD TRIP PARENT CONSENT FORM

Principal's approval: _____

Please return before: _____

What: EF Educational Europe Trip

Where: Portugal and Spain (Lisbon, Seville, Costa del Sol, Algarve, Valencia, Barcelona).

When: Leaving the school Sunday, March 15th, 2026 and returning Friday, March 27th, 2026.

Cost: Approx: \$5000

Please return this permission form by **February 29**.

We will be travelling by school bus, airplane, tour bus and water taxi.

Your child will require:

Clothes and toiletries, lunch, gratuity and spending money (euros) for 9 travel days. Passport on the person AT ALL TIMES, provided EF backpack with emergency contact numbers. Students and adult travelers are required to attend all Europe Trip preparation meetings to be aware of all necessities, preparations, and documents required for this trip. Parents will be required at the final Departure Meeting to be held one month prior to leaving. Travelers and parents have access to EF's 24-hour emergency phone numbers. Parents can call 1-800-263-2806 from Canada, while travelers can make a collect call to 001-416-927-1911 while abroad. Group Leader, Renee, (250)438-0776 and Kirk, (250)3best to be contacted through WhatsApp.

* This permission slip must be returned for your child/youth's participation - written notes or phone calls will not be accepted to grant permission.

**PERMISSION
SLIP**

The following statement must be signed by the parent/guardian for students participating in Higher Risk Field Trips:

I am aware and understand that participation in the Higher Risk Field Trip involves certain inherent risks, dangers and hazards which may result in serious personal injury or death or other loss or damage to property. I am aware that downhill skiing, Nordic track skiing, snowboarding and snow-blading, ice skating, road cycling, mountain biking, adventure hiking, canoeing, kayaking, swimming in natural settings, wilderness orienteering and residential camping are dangerous activities and that in addition to the usual risks inherent in these activities, certain additional dangers and risks including, but not limited to, varying snow, ice and visibility conditions and the danger and risk of collision with natural and man-made objects. For international travel, I have been informed that the Higher Risk Field Trip may become a dangerous activity due to global unrest. Further I agree that there may be other risks not known to me or not reasonably foreseeable at this time. I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Board of School Education of School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) "the Board", its employees and agents ("the Releasees"). From any loss, claim, or demand for any and all negligence arising as a result of the student's involvement or participation in the Higher Risk Field Trip except where such negligence is caused by the Releasees. I understand and accept that the Board and its employees and agents may at any time cancel the Higher Risk Field Trip for appropriate reasons including travel advisories indicating international air travel is unsafe or the destination is unsafe. Accordingly, I agree to waive any and all claims against the Board, its employees and agents for any monetary loss arising from the cancellation of the Higher Risk Field Trip. I understand that during the Higher Risk Field Trip the Student may incur additional unforeseen financial expenses required for reasons of safety and I agree to waive and reimburse for any and all claims against the Board, its employees and agents for any such expenses that are reasonably required. Both my child/youth and I understand that Board Policy #502.1 "Code of Conduct for Students" applies on all field trips. The use of alcohol or drugs and or inappropriate student conduct may result in suspension from school. Students engaging in these behaviors are liable to be sent home at their families' expense.

If you agree to allow your child to attend, please complete the information below, sign, date and return to the school. Please note: All school rules apply. Thank you!

_____, _____ (Teachers)

Renee Hartwell Kirk McConnell

I give permission for my child _____ to attend the EF Educational Italy Trip on Spring Break 2024, March 19-27th, 2024. I understand that all school rules apply during this field trip.

Emergency contact and information:

Name:

Phone:

Child's Care Card#:

General info (allergies, previous injuries, etc):

In case of an emergency, I give permission for my child to receive medical treatment.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Portugal and Spain 2026- PSS EF Tours Trip March 15-27, 2026

Supervisors & Volunteers:

This is the purpose of the trip: Experiential Learning! "Your EF tour includes visits to places you've learned about in school. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures-surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life- creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced."

Duties, Roles & Responsibilities:

*Adults with our group who are paying travelers do not get assigned a group but are simply asked to keep a general eye on the well-being of the travelers. They do require a background check and CRC in accordance with EF and School District policies of working with youth and are required to refrain from substance and alcohol use for the entirety of the trip, just like chaperones.

- Each Supervisor on the trip will be assigned a group of about 5 students. We ask that you are aware of their whereabouts and that they are clear on the activity expectations. We ask that you check for their understanding of instructions and behavior expectations, particularly when students are given free exploration time, that they are aware of the meet back time and place as well as what to do in case of becoming lost, injured, or left behind.
- We ask that you conduct headcounts at various checkpoints and indicate to Renee or Kirk (who can let the tour guide know) that we are all accounted for. We ask that you be responsible for night-time checks, ensuring your group is in their room at assigned time and following behavior expectations.
- You will be contacted by EF to fulfill a background check online. Please complete that. If you are not a school district employee, it is required that they have a current CRC (Criminal Records Check) completed.
- You are to refrain from using alcohol and substances for the duration of the trip.

Lost, Injured or Left Behind Student Instructions:

- Ensure your student group is wearing their wrist bands with the EF Tour Student Support Number: 1-800-263-2806
- Ensure your students stay with you or in a small group at all times.
- Ensure that your student group knows the meet-up place, so if get lost, they ask for directions, find it on a map, or call the EF help line to ask to be guided/taxied to the meet-up place.
- If you become aware that a student in your group is lost (or passport is lost), injured or left behind, please let Renee know asap 250-438-0776. The group leader, Kirk, is

required to stay behind with these students while the other chaperones continue on with the group.

EF's Advice for Travellers (please help remind students in your group)

- **Be proactive in terms of personal safety**

Nothing can replace old-fashioned common sense when it comes to being safe while travelling. We advise travelers to leave expensive clothes and jewelry at home, to always travel in a group, to choose well-lit streets and to be aware of their surroundings and other people at all times.

- **Be on time**

For group travel to go smoothly, each member of the group must be punctual and demonstrate respect to the Tour Director and all travelers in the group.

- **Keep all possessions in a safe place**

Travellers are responsible for their possessions. Valuables should never be left behind in the hotel (unless locked in a safe) or on a bus seat (they should be stored by the driver in the locked luggage compartment under the bus). Personal belongings should always be kept within sight. Also, popular tourist areas attract pickpockets. We recommend that travelers keep money in travel pouches that can be worn under clothes.

Know all the important contact numbers

- Your child should travel with the contact information for each hotel on the itinerary. This information is located on the final itinerary, which travelers can access 14 days before the tour on their personal website.
- Students should also bring the Emergency Calling Instructions card (included in the Preparing for Departure package), which provides instructions on how to dial emergency numbers in the countries they're visiting.
- Travellers and parents also have access to EF's 24-hour emergency phone numbers, which are listed on the Emergency Calling Instructions card. Parents can call 1-800-263-2806 from Canada, while travelers can make a collect call to 001-416-927-1911 while abroad.
- Upon arrival, the Tour Director will give all travelers a wristband with the emergency number printed on it and students should wear it for the duration of the tour.

As always, please feel free to contact us regarding any questions, concerns and considerations.

Renee Hartwell & Kirk McConnell

PSS EF Group Leaders

PSS: 250-295-3218

rhartwell@365.sd58.bc.ca

kmconnell@365.sd58.bc.ca



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

**FROM: Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO**

RE: Contract Renewal – External Auditors

DATE: December 5, 2024

The Board provisioned its external auditing contract to BDO Canada LLP for the three-year period: 2021/2022, 2022/2023, and 2023/2024. The submission of the 2023-2024 audited financial statements on September 30, 2024, marks the completion of the contract.

Senior staff have received recommendations from Focused Education that the following two options are available to the Board. Focused Education is a non-profit, member driven organization that represents K-12 School Districts, First Nations, and Independent Schools. Their goal is to leverage the aggregate purchasing volumes of the sector to obtain price and administrative efficiencies. The two options for consideration include:

1. Negotiate a one-year contract extension with BDO Canada for the 2024-2025 school year and then seek a Request for Proposal for a 3–5 year contract.
2. Go straight to Request for Proposal for a 3–5 year contract starting in 2024-2025.

Trustees will be asked to provide direction on how they wish to proceed with the external auditor.

Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO

DR/kb



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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

**FROM: Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO**

RE: Transportation Update – Late Bus Service

DATE: December 5, 2024

For the past few years, the School District has been providing a Late Bus Service that allows bus students to participate in after-school extracurricular activities while still being able to access school district transportation services to get home. The late bus service has received its funding through 1) British Columbia Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) and 2) the School District's operating fund.

The total costs for providing the late bus service are \$190,000. Funding received from BCTEA was cut by approximately \$70,000, leaving only approximately \$30,000 of BCTEA funding to for the late bus. Regretfully, the School District will be discontinuing its late bus services as of December 20, 2024.

The School District is committed to offering the best possible transportation service and will be seeking funding through Jordan's Principal, a child-first principle that ensures First Nations children in Canada have access to the services, products, and supports they need, regardless of whether they live on or off-reserve. As well the School District will be investigating other options such as offering bus passes through the local BC Transit system.

Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO

DR/kb



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

**FROM: Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO**

RE: 2024-2025 Amended Budget Update Memo

DATE: December 5, 2024

Enclosed Trustees will find a layout of the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Key Dates. With the student enrolment verification completed in September, senior staff would typically receive a funding announcement from the Ministry of Education and Child Care in December, confirming the final operating grant allocations in preparation for the 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget.

Senior Staff have received correspondence from the Ministry of Education and Child Care that the funding announcement has been postponed to an unconfirmed date in January 2025 due to a change in government process.

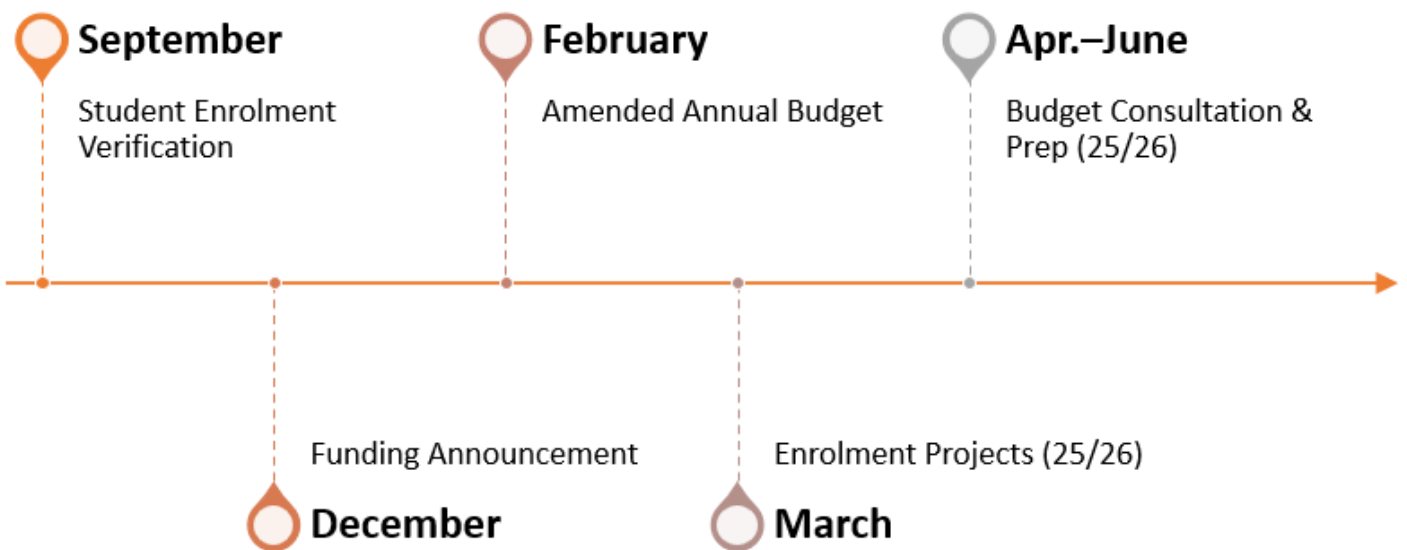
The Ministry has confirmed that they will not be waiving the requirement for an Amended budget that is typically due February 28th. Once the funding announcement is received from the Ministry, senior staff will expedite the amended annual budget.

Dylan Richardson
Secretary Treasurer/CFO

DR/kb

Encl. 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Key Date

2024-2025 Budget Cycle Key Dates





NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Trustees

FROM: Courtney Lawrance
Superintendent of Schools

RE: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, REVIEWS,
AND REPEALS

DATE: December 11, 2024

Recommendations:

Our policy committee is currently working on Section 5.00, Health and Safety. We have another meeting scheduled for December 17, 2024. My recommendation is to start bringing forward our Administrative Procedures in January 2025, as we will be completing our policy work by the end of this school year. These are written by Senior Staff and brought forward as information for Trustees.

Bylaw and Policy for Approval/Review:

- a) Appeal Bylaw 5-23 – The final approval is needed. A motion is requested.
- b) Policy 3.41 – Board Authority Courses - First Reading. This policy will be sent out for consultation.

Repeals:

The committee has recommended the repeal of the following policies:

- a) 504.1 Health and Safety
- b) 504.8 Healthy Nutrition in Schools
- c) 902.1 School District Safety Program
- d) 904.8 Use of Herbicides

CL/sc

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)

BYLAW NO. 5-23

SCHOOL ACT APPEALS

A Bylaw of the Board of Education of School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen), hereinafter called "the Board", to establish procedures governing *School Act* Section 11 appeals to the Board.

WHEREAS Section 11 of the *School Act* provides that a parent/guardian and/or student in the School District may appeal a decision of an employee or employees of the Board if that decision significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student;

AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to enact the process for the conduct of such appeals;

AND WHEREAS the Board believes that the resolution of concerns is best addressed at the point the concern occurred and encourages students or parents/guardians to bring concerns forward with the staff member who made the decision prior to accessing the appeal process.

AND WHEREAS the Board recognizes that decisions that do not significantly affect the education, health or safety of a student are within the final authority of the Superintendent.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Education of School District No.58 (Nicola-Similkameen) in an open meeting, hereby **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS**:

1. CITATION

This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) ***School Act*** Appeals Procedure 5-23

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 The terms used in this Bylaw have the meanings assigned by *the School Act* and Regulations made thereunder, except as when the context indicates otherwise.
 - 2.1.1 For greater clarity, a parent is defined as one who usually has the care and control of the student or child.
- 2.2 For purposes of this Bylaw, the student or parent/guardian filing the appeal can be referred to as the "Appellant".

3. FAIRNESS PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 Students/parents/guardians can expect fairness in the appeals process, including:
 - 3.1.1 the right to be heard,
 - 3.1.2 the right to adequate notice and timely receipt of relevant information,
 - 3.1.3 being provided with reasons for decisions,
 - 3.1.4 an impartial decision maker, and
 - 3.1.5 a respectful process, free from retaliation.

4. DECISIONS WHICH MAY BE APPEALED

- 4.1 The Board of Education recognizes the right of a student and/or parent/guardian of a student under Section 11 of the *School Act* to appeal a decision of an employee of the Board where such decision significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student.
- 4.2 A decision for the purposes of this Bylaw includes the failure of an employee to make a decision.
- 4.3 Examples of grounds for appeal include, but are not limited to:
 - 4.3.1 disciplinary suspension from school;
 - 4.3.2 suspension from an educational program, if no other educational program is provided by the Board;
 - 4.3.3 expulsion from an educational program;
 - 4.3.4 refusal to offer an educational program to a student who is sixteen (16) years of age or older;
 - 4.3.5 requirement to complete all or part of an educational program by distributed learning, or in an alternate program, as a disciplinary measure, where space and facilities are available in a school;
 - 4.3.6 exclusion from school for a health condition;
 - 4.3.7 failure to provide an Individual Education Plan to a student with special needs;
 - 4.3.8 failure to offer to consult with a parent/guardian regarding the placement or Individual Education Plan of a student with special needs;
 - 4.3.9 denial of an educational program by failure to take action in respect of a complaint of bullying, intimidation, harassment, racism or threat or use of weapons or violence by one or more students against another student; and
 - 4.3.10 any other decision that, in the opinion of the Board, significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student.

5. BEFORE FILING AN APPEAL

- 5.1 Before an appeal is filed, the Board encourages the Appellant to discuss (present the concern verbally or in writing) the issue in dispute in a constructive manner with those responsible at the school or district level. In this regard, the Board suggests, the following steps before an appeal is filed:
 - 5.1.1 Step 1: The Appellant discuss the issue with the principal where the decision was made at the school level, or the responsible administrator, where the decision was made at the district level; or
 - 5.1.2 Step 2: The Appellant discuss the issue with a district administrator

6. REFUSAL TO HEAR APPEALS

- 6.1 The Board may refuse to hear an appeal where:
 - 6.1.1 the appeal has not been filed within the time limits set out in paragraph 7.1 below;
 - 6.1.2 the Appellant has not first discussed the decision being appealed with any persons identified by the Board; and/or
 - 6.1.3 the Board determines that the decision does not significantly affect the student's education, health or safety.

7. FILING AN APPEAL

- 7.1 If the steps taken in section 5.1 above are unsuccessful, the Appellant may file a formal appeal by preparing a Notice of Appeal and submitting it to the Secretary Treasurer, or designate, within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the Appellant was informed of the final decision.
- 7.1.1 If the Appellant can demonstrate that there are reasonable grounds to extend this time limit, the Board will consider whether to extend the time limit.
- 7.2 An appeal to the Board commences with submission of a written Notice of Appeal to the Secretary Treasurer.
- 7.3 The Notice of Appeal must include the following information:
- 7.3.1 the name, address, email address (if applicable), and phone number of the Appellant, including the student's name, school, grade level
 - 7.3.2 a description of the decision that is being appealed and its effect on the education, health or safety of the student;
 - 7.3.3 the name of the employee who made the decision;
 - 7.3.4 the date the Appellant was informed of the decision being appealed;
 - 7.3.5 the grounds of the appeal and the action requested;
 - 7.3.6 the steps that the Appellant has taken to discuss the matter directly with the person who made the decision or with other school or district employees; and
 - 7.3.7 if the Notice of Appeal is filed outside the 30 day time limit, the reasons the Notice of Appeal were not filed within the time limit.
- 7.4 The District will offer assistance in preparing an appeal.
- 7.4.1 An Appeal form is available, but not mandatory, provided the information in 7.3 is provided.
 - 7.4.2 The services of an uninvolved staff member as a navigator.
 - 7.4.3 Accommodations, such as interpretive services or visual aids, when needed.
- 7.5 The District encourages Appellants to receive the support of other local, regional, or provincial organizations to prepare an appeal.
- 7.5.1 Indigenous students and/or parents/guardians are encouraged to access supports that may include: district Indigenous Education staff or advocacy services available to them from the local First Nations, Métis Associations or other local, regional, or provincial supports.
- 7.6 The Secretary Treasurer, or designate, will, upon receiving the Notice of Appeal:
- 7.6.1 promptly provide a copy of the Notice of Appeal and any other information the Appellant submits in support of their appeal to: the Board, the Superintendent or designate, and, the employee whose decision is being appealed.
 - 7.6.2 confirm with the Appellant, in writing, receipt of the Notice of Appeal. In accordance with section 10.3, the Board shall make a decision within 45 days from the date the Notice of Appeal was received.
- 7.7 The Appellant may withdraw their appeal at any time.

8. PRE-HEARING

- 8.1 The Secretary Treasurer or their designate is responsible for reviewing the Notice of Appeal and for communicating with the Appellant and others on matters related to the appeal.
- 8.2 Where, in the opinion of the Secretary Treasurer, the appeal does not comply with the requirements for an appeal established under this Bylaw or Section 11 of the *School Act*, the Secretary Treasurer shall refer the preliminary matter to the Board for a determination.
- 8.3 The Board shall make a preliminary decision, if required, within 10 working days of receipt of the appeal.
 - 8.3.1 The Board shall inform the Appellant and the Superintendent or designate in writing, of the preliminary decision and provide reasons for the decision, including a refusal to hear the appeal.
- 8.4 Where there is no preliminary matter to be determined, arrangements will be made for hearing of the appeal by the Board.
- 8.5 The Board may make any interim or procedural decision it considers necessary pending the disposition of the appeal.

9. BOARD HEARING

- 9.1 The Board shall provide directions to the Appellant and the Superintendent or designate, concerning:
 - 9.1.1 whether it requires written submissions and if so, the deadlines and any other directions concerning the written submissions; and/or
 - 9.1.1.1 Where a written submission is provided by the Superintendent or designate, the Appellants and the employee whose decision is being appealed shall receive a copy of the submission.
 - 9.1.1.2 Where a written submission is provided by the Appellant, the Superintendent or designate and the employee whose decision is being appealed shall receive a copy of the submission.
 - 9.1.2 whether it will hold a meeting for the purpose of hearing oral submissions and if so, the date, place, time and location of the meeting and any time limits or other directions concerning oral submissions to be made at the meeting.
 - 9.1.2.1 Consideration will be given regarding the location of the hearing.
- 9.2 The purpose of the submissions is to:
 - 9.2.1 allow the Superintendent or designate an opportunity to explain the decision giving rise to the Appeal, the reasons for the decision and to respond to information presented by the Appellant; and
 - 9.2.2 allow the Appellant to explain their appeal and respond to the information presented by the Superintendent or designate.
- 9.3 The Board may ask questions of clarification of the parties before deciding the appeal and may adjourn any meeting of the Board held to consider the appeal for the purpose of obtaining further information.

- 9.4 An Employee shall have the opportunity to provide a written reply to any allegations contained in the Notice of Appeal and may attend any meeting of the Board held in respect of the appeal where the Appellant is present.
- 9.5 During the appeal process, the Appellant may be represented by an advocate, support person of their choosing and/or interpreter/translator, who may make submissions on behalf of the Appellant.

10. DECISION

- 10.1 The Board shall make any decision that it considers appropriate in respect of the matter that is being appealed and any preliminary matters.
- 10.2 The Board shall decide the appeal based only on the submissions presented to it in accordance with this Bylaw.
- 10.2.1 As a fairness principle, decision maker(s) for an appeal must be impartial to the parties to the appeal and the issue to be decided. Therefore, those involved making a decision will have had no prior involvement with the original decision. Any staff involved in the original decision shall not attend or participate in appeal deliberations.
- 10.3 The Board shall make a decision within 45 days from the date the Notice of Appeal was received in an acceptable form.
- 10.3.1 Whenever possible appeal decisions will be made as expeditiously as the circumstances of the appeal dictate.
- 10.4 The Board shall promptly notify the Appellant, the Superintendent or designate and the employee whose decision was appealed of the decision of the Board and shall provide written reasons for the decision.
- 10.5 An Appellant may have a right to appeal a decision of the Board made under this Bylaw to the Student Appeals Branch of the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Postal Address: Registrar, Student Appeals
Ministry of Education and Child Care, Student Appeals Branch
620 Superior St
PO Box 9146 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9H1

Email EDUC.studentappeals@gov.bc.ca
Telephone 1-877-387-8037 or 250-387-8037
Website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-disputes-and-appeals#appeals>

11. REPEAL

- 11.1 School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) Appeal Procedure Bylaw 500.0 dated February 13, 2013 and any previous Appeal Procedure Bylaws, including and amendments thereto, are hereby repealed.

Read a First Time	this	xx th	day of	xxx 2023
Read a Second Time	this	xx th	day of	xxx 2023

Read a Third Time	this	day of	2023
ADOPTED	this	day of	2023

Chair

Secretary Treasurer

POLICY 3.40 BOARD/AUTHORITY AUTHORIZED COURSES

The Board of Education believes that Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses provide an opportunity for students to explore content beyond the boundaries of provincial curriculum. These courses are developed in response to local needs and student interests.

Board Authority/Authorized Courses (BAA) must meet the requirements set by the Ministry, be approved by the Board and have content not offered in Ministry developed courses.

Guidelines

1. While Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses may overlap with Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies of Ministry courses they may not:
 - 1.1. significantly overlap with provincial curriculum;
 - 1.2. be remedial or preparatory in nature;
 - 1.3. be a modified course;
 - 1.4. be an adapted course.
2. Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses can include courses that:
 - 2.1. Meet Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11, or 12 requirements.
 - 2.2. Prepare students with special needs through skill instruction to be successful across a wide variety of subjects and settings.
 - 2.3. Address the cultural and academic literacy needs of English Language Learners.
 - 2.4. Support students in developing an understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture and/or Indigenous language.
3. Course program submissions will describe:
 - 3.1. The processes utilized in creating the submission, including student and teacher involvement.
 - 3.2. The educational rationale for such a course, including the need for a Board/Authority authorized designation.
 - 3.3. The course content; the procedures for selection of learning resources, the anticipated methodology to be utilized; the student evaluation criteria; and the link, if any, to other school or District programs.

- 3.4. The anticipated budget, equipment and facility requirements, including a listing of proposed course fees and the anticipated amount and type of travel, and
 - 3.5. The impact of the course or program on existing courses or programs; on the school's operating, learning resources and equipment budgets, and on the school's facilities.
4. Indigenous-focused graduation credit BAA courses must include content that provides the opportunity for students to develop a meaningful and substantial breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of specific First Nation peoples, cultures, worldviews, and histories in BC and:
 - 4.1. Be co-developed and approved by one or more local First Nation[s];
 - 4.2. Ensure that learning about and from First Nation peoples and cultures in BC is a significant outcome (courses may still focus on specific curricular areas); and
 - 4.3. Meet all existing BAA course requirements.
5. The Superintendent of Schools will submit proposals to the Board for consideration together with their recommendation, the request for establishing the proposed Board/Authority authorized course, the course of study, and other supportive material.
6. The Board will approve or rejects the course by Board motion.
7. If the course receives the approval of the Board, the Superintendent of Schools will forward notification to the Ministry of Education. A copy of the course description will be kept on file by the Superintendent of Schools to be available for Ministry review purposes.
8. The Superintendent will monitor Board Authority/Authorized courses, on an ongoing, basis in accordance with established administrative procedures.

Health and Safety

-POLICY-

1. Classes should be conducted in facilities that are conducive to effective learning.
2. Protecting students from exposure to a child with a communicable disease.
3. When a child is suspected of or reported to have a communicable disease, the matter will be immediately reported to the Public Health Nurse and if necessary to the Medical Health Officer.

Healthy Nutrition in Schools

-POLICY-

The District supports nutritious/healthy food choices that meet the mandated (2008) and most up to date Ministry of Education and Health “Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools” (2005). The goal is to support schools in their addressing the statement that “Guidelines provide schools, and food/beverage providers within schools, with a standard for decision-making that fosters healthy food environments” (Ministry of Education & Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. Updated August 2010).

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/healthyschools/2015_food_guidelines.pdf

The Ministry policy guidelines will be implemented in each school within School District No. 58 by the Principals of each school and supported by the Health Promoting Schools Coordinator / Health Committee within schools / Parent Advisory Councils / Interior Health Authority Dietitian.

The Guidelines for Food and Beverages Sale in B.C. Schools will apply to:

1. School vending machines, stores and cafeterias
2. Parent organized lunch sales
3. School organized fun fairs and bake sales
4. Food and beverages sold to students during sporting events or on field trips (even when off school grounds)
5. Food and beverages sold as a fundraiser to students
6. All school meal programs including those sold at a subsidized rate
7. Food prepared by students as part of class projects and sold to students

The Guidelines for Food and Beverages Sales in B.C. Schools will not apply to:

1. Bagged lunches from home
2. Food and beverages brought to school by parents, which are not being sold to students
3. Food prepared by students as part of class projects and consumed by students without being purchased
4. Food and beverages sold to adults (non-students) as fundraisers
5. Fundraising by adults to adults

School District Safety Program**-POLICY-**

The Board of Education recognizes the necessity for a planned safety program to ensure a safe environment for all personnel and students throughout the school district.

The responsibility for developing the total safety program will be delegated to the School District Safety Committee which will be directly responsible to the Secretary Treasurer and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

The Committee will develop and implement a safety program which will include:

1. compliance with and enforcement of all provincial and federal rules and regulations;
2. provision for in-service training designed to promote safety standards and practices as well as competency in first aid;
3. a program to regularly evaluate the safety program and monitor the safety standards of each facility.

The District Safety Committee will include representatives from the employee unions, administrative officers and the Board.

Use of Herbicides**-POLICY-**

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of a safe physical environment for students and the public who utilize its grounds and facilities. The Board will endeavour to ensure that products used to maintain the grounds and facilities are safe.

-REGULATION-

The Board of Education will prohibit the use of any herbicide to control weeds on any school property.

The Secretary Treasurer shall contact local Ministry of Transportation and Highways, Ministry of Forests and the municipal representatives each spring to ascertain what chemical use is planned within the boundaries of the district. These plans shall be communicated to all concerned and Board staff shall act accordingly.