

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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 (Absent) J. Chenoweth D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	Matthew W.
	Superintendent	C. Lawrance
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston
	Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	K. Buckland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

MINUTES

24/180 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held November 13, 2024, be adopted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

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.

Field Trip – Princeton Secondary Proposal to Portugal and Spain 2026:

Superintendent Lawrance presented the proposed PSS field trip to Portugal and Spain in 2026 with a recommendation to approve the trip in principle. Merritt Secondary school was invited to participate in the trip however, it was confirmed that MSS has another trip planned for the same dates. Chair Swan advised that participants in the field trip should have a printed copy of their passports to serve as a back up piece of identification.

24/182 It was moved by Trustee Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board support Princeton Secondary School's proposed trip to Portugal and Spain in 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

OPERATIONS:**Contract Renewal – Auditors:**

The Secretary Treasurer informed Trustees of the expired contract with its external auditor, seeking direction to either extend the contract for the 2024-2025 school year and then seek a Request For Proposal (RFP), or, seek an RFP right away for a 3-5 year period with the first year being 2024-2025.

24/183 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board motion to move straight to Request for Proposal for a 3–5-year contract for the Board's external auditor, starting in 2024-2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Transportation Update – Late Bus Service:

The Secretary Treasurer updated Trustees about the School District's late bus services, which allows bus students to participate in after-school extracurricular activities and still use School District transportation to get home. The late bus service has been funded through the British Columbia Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA), which has been reduced by approximately \$72,000 for the 2024-2025 school year. As a result, the School District will end the late bus service as of December 20, 2024. The Secretary Treasurer advised that the School District is committed to offering the best possible transportation service and will be seeking alternative solutions (Ex. Jordan's Principle, BC's Transit System). Trustee Rainer recommended that we include this update as part of the agenda when meeting with First Nations Chiefs.

THAT the Board approved Policy 504.8, Healthy Nutrition in Schools, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedures Guide.

MOTION CARRIED

24/188 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth.

THAT the Board approved Policy 902.1, School District Safety Program, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedures Guide.

MOTION CARRIED

24/189 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth.

THAT the Board approved Policy 904.8, Use of Herbicides, be repealed and moved to the Administrative Procedures Guide.

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee, Mr. Williams, provided Trustees shared his perspective on the following questions presented ahead of time: what makes you feel appreciated? What student activities would you like to see more of?

P.A.C Reports:

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary.

Chair Swan reports on Merritt Bench Elementary, Collettsville Elementary and Merritt Secondary School

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

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

Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Other Reports:

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None