

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow

PRESENT:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Trustees	B. Jepsen G. Comeau E. Hoisington L. Ward D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	C. Anscomb J. Babcock
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	B. Ross
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	D. Richardson
	Executive Assistant	S. Chenoweth
	Executive Assistant	S. Blonde

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

AGENDA

21/059 It was moved and seconded:

 THAT the revised agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Revision to Agenda

Item 7a has been moved to the top of the agenda to accommodate the audit team from BDO Canada LLP.

MINUTES

21/060 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting June 9, 2021, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Student Trustee Introduction

Assistant Superintendent Aziz announced the four student trustees for the 2021/2022 school year:

Rylee Forde – Princeton Secondary School
Kaelan Druck – Princeton Secondary School
Carson Anscomb – Merritt Secondary School
Joshua Babcock – Community Learning Centre (new)

2020/2021 Audited Financial Statements

The Secretary Treasurer presented a memo and the draft form of the 2020/2021 audited financial statements and introduced Mario Piroddi from BDO Canada LLP who provided a presentation of the financial statements highlighting a stable financial year. He reviewed dollars spent on capital projects, the overall consolidated deficit and surplus dollars, a decrease in assets and the approval to transfer unrestricted reserve funds.

21/061 It was moved and seconded

THAT the final 2020/2021 Audited Financial Statements presented for School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Strategic Plan Presentation

The Superintendent provided Trustees with an overview of the Strategic Plan with a general review and the steps taken to communicate the plan to date.

Equity Scan

Superintendent McNiven presented to the Board with an update on the 2021/2022 Equity in Action project. A meeting with Joe Heslip is scheduled for November 17, 2021 for Equity Onboarding and Orientation. Trustees are encouraged to join this meeting. District Principal of Aboriginal Education spoke to the great work taking place throughout the District.

Truth and Reconciliation (Kevin Lamoureux)

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on the District's engagement with Kevin Lamoureux and the educational role Mr. Lamoureux has accomplished for staff on Truth and Reconciliation. Kevin Lamoureux spoke to the Board about a sacred care for children in schools and for the dignity and pride in the reconciliation process. Reconciliation is a healing process that will help educate Canadians to become part of the solution.

Mental Health Initiatives

The Assistant Superintendent distributed a memo from the District Principal of Student Support outlining the mandated Mental Health Plan. The Superintendent spoke to the District's Mental Health Plan, initiatives and funding.

District Web Page

The Assistant Superintendent informed Trustees that the new District website is now active. Adjustments will be ongoing with a greater number of staff trained to assist in website updates.

Communicable Disease Guidance Update

The Superintendent provided Trustees with a memo updating guiding principles, vaccination requirements and clinics, key updates and health and safety standards. The Assistant Superintendent presented the Board with a Communicable Disease Plan.

Provincial Update

Superintendent McNiven presented to the Board with a Ministry of Education update which included a 2020/2021 year in review and priorities for 2021/2022.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent circulated a Superintendent's Report and informed on the important work the District has been working on:

- Thank You to Summer Staff
- Truth and Reconciliation Week
- New District Website
- Mental Health
- Welcome to All New Staff
- Numeracy Support
- Strategic Plan Scavenger Hunt
- Teachers These Days – Stories and Strategies for Reconnections

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2022/23 Five-Year Capital Plan - Major

The Secretary Treasurer distributed and discussed the 2022/2023 Five-Year Capital Plan for major projects. The projects include:

Addition of a gymnasium and 5 classrooms for Merritt Bench Elementary (\$7,540,000)
 Traditional First Nations Pit House for Nicola-Canford Elementary (\$1,400,000)
 Hallway additions to gym for Merritt Secondary (\$750,000)
 Science room renovations for Merritt Secondary (\$340,000)
 Shop addition to Coquihalla Middle (\$1,100,000)

21/062

It was moved and seconded:

THAT in accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No 585 (Nicola-Similkameen) hereby approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan – Major for 2022/2023, as detailed above and submitted to the Ministry of Education, in the amount of \$11,130,000.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022/23 Five-Year Capital Plan - Minor

The Secretary Treasurer distributed and discussed the 2022/2023 Five-Year Capital Plan for minor projects. The projects include:

Low hanging hydro wires to be rerouted at Merritt Bench Elementary (\$220,000)
 Main power supply upgrade at Princeton Secondary (\$350,000)
 HVAC replacement in the shop wing at Princeton Secondary (\$500,000)
 HVAC replacement of 7 rooftop units at Merritt Secondary (\$500,000)
 Playground replacement at Elementary (\$165,000)
 Playground replacement at Elementary (\$165,000)
 HVAC replacement for north side at Merritt Bench Elementary (\$550,000)
 HVAC replacement for various rooftop units (\$475,000)

21/063

It was moved and seconded:

THAT in accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No 585 (Nicola-Similkameen) hereby approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan – Minor for 2022/2023, as detailed above and submitted to the Ministry of Education, in the amount of \$2,925.000.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Summer Projects

The Operations Manager provided the Board with a summary of the summer projects that took place in the maintenance department during the summer.

Long Range Facility Plan

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo updating the Board on the ongoing work in progress on the Long-Range Facility Plan. An Operations Committee meeting took place on September 10, 2021 for further discussion on the outcome of the Surplus Properties Consultation.

Community Support

Operations Manager Finnigan offered Trustees a detailed account of the community support during the surrounding wildfires that took place during the summer months.

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Carry Forward Targeted Funds

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo and letter addressed to the Minister of Education to be signed by the Board Chair. She discussed the requirement to carry forward the Targeted Funds for the 2020/2021 School Year.

21/064

It was moved and seconded

THAT the underexpenditure of the 2020/2021 targeted Aboriginal funds in the amount of \$140,280 be carried forward to the 2021/2022 school year.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Restart Funding 2021/2022

The Secretary Treasurer circulated a memo and a Deputy Minister's Bulletin from June 17, 2021 designating the finalized allocations for the Restart Funding Grant of \$135,265. The September Return to School Recovery Plan will be distributed with \$74,932 of the grant for mental health services and \$60,333 of the grant for health and safety measures.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Trustee Code of Conduct

The Superintendent distributed a memo and policy 205.3 Trustee Code of Ethics & Conduct for Trustees annual review and acknowledgement. This item will be brought forward to the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 27, 2021.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Anscomb reported on recent events at Merritt Secondary School. He provided an update on the change back to the semester system this year with a positive response. Grad planning and sports are starting to be organised.

Student Trustee Babcock reported on recent events at Community Learning Centre. He provided an update on school start-up and an improvement to more hands-on learning this year.

Trustee Reports

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

Trustee Comeau reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary.

Trustee Ward reported on Princeton Secondary School.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola-Canford Elementary.

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

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary and Merritt Secondary.

Non-Sexist Environment Communique

Board Chair Swan read the District's non-sexist environment communique.

Other Reports

BCSTA Thompson Okanagan Branch Meeting (Oct 15-16) will now be held virtually.

Trustee Representative for Provincial Council

The Board Chair called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Representative.

Trustee Comeau was nominated.

21/065

It was moved and seconded:

THAT Trustee Comeau be appointed as the BCSTA Provincial Council representative for the District.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Selection of Board Committee Members

The following committees will be brought forward to the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 27, 2021:

Education Committee

Operations Committee

Audit and Finance Committee

Aboriginal Education Committee and AAC

Personnel and Employee Relations Committee

Health and Safety Committee

Policy Committee

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer