

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

Success for ALL Learner Today and Tomorrow on the Traditional Territories of the Nle?kepmux and Syilx

PRESENT:	Chairman	G. Comeau
	Trustees	B. Jepsen J. Chenoweth L. Ward G. Swan
	Student Trustees	N. Willey K. Moyes
	Superintendent	S. McNiven
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Aziz
	Secretary Treasurer	B. Ross
	Operations Manager	D. Finnigan
	Executive Assistant	S. Blonde

AGENDA

19/136 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

19/137 It was moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 16, 2019, be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Assistant Superintendent introduced returned Student Trustee Nicholas Willey and new Student Trustee Kassie Moyes.

Presentation – South Central Interior Distance Education School

Assistant Superintendent Aziz introduced Principal Goetz of South Central Interior Distance Education School (SCIDES), who presented alongside Teacher Mr. French on the adult education. There are 151 courses, free upgrading to obtain a dogwood diploma, and career zones offered for adults throughout the Province at SCIDES. The school is seeing much growth but still needs more exposure.

Recognition for Teacher Robert French

Superintendent McNiven discussed the importance of recognizing Teacher Robert French for his work in the District. Mr. French was the runner up for the Premier's Award for Excellence in Education – New Teacher. Board Chair Comeau presented Mr. French with a local piece of art in congratulations and recognition for his outstanding work.

Field Trips

There are no new field trips to report.

Class Size Average

The Superintendent distributed a memo and a report on class size configuration. He provided an overview of elementary class configuration, 2018/2019 class size averages and historic class size averages for both Nicola-Similkameen and for the Province. The District is under the allowable class size in all categories with very little split classes.

Ministry of Education Partner Liaison Meeting

The Superintendent provided a memo and presented a summary the Ministry of Education's Partner Liaison meeting that took place on October 17-18, 2019. Topics included the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and Strategic Planning. Enhancing Student Learning is understanding the common ground, outcomes and the capacity to build. Strategic Planning involves alignment, long term planning and support. The BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association's Strategic Plan was discussed. It was also noted that a MyEd data collection pilot project on the Provincial level will be taking place while maintaining the Freedom of Information Act. Overall the meeting was productive and informative.

Strategic Planning

The Superintendent distributed a memo and spoke about the third strategic planning session that took place on October 28, 2019. The recommendations to move forward are to modernize and Indigenize the current vision, measure and report out on the progress of the plan, to consider stakeholder groups and questions and to focus on the goals. The current plan has a strong foundation but is lacking effective communication. Progress has been made in the efforts of creating a stakeholder group to focus on children in care and a third party “Imagine a Circle” will collect the information.

Superintendent’s Report

The Superintendent circulated a Superintendent’s Report and informed on the following activities happening in the district:

- Student Vote on Democracy
- Changing Results for Young Children
- STEAM 4 Girls Camp
- Remembrance Day
- Canadian Author Eric Walter Presentations
- Thank-You to all Education Assistants
- Congratulations to District Athletes
- SD58 Leading the Way at BCPVPA Connecting Leaders Conference
- SD58 First Nations Parent Gathering

OPERATIONS COMMITEE

Surveillance Cameras

The Operations Manager circulated a memo and provided the Board with a follow-up and a quote from Aspen Electric on the Alhua surveillance system for the following schools:

Collettsville Elementary
 Merritt Central Elementary
 Merritt Secondary
 John Allison Elementary
 Princeton Secondary
 Nicola-Canford Elementary

The District has spent approximately \$18,000 on vandalism repairs in a one-year period. Cameras are expected to deter vandals. More discussion is needed before proceeding with the purchase and installation of surveillance at all six suggested schools. The Board would like more options and quotes to be provided at the December 11, 2019 board meeting. Due to the cost and meaning of the calming space located at Nicola-Canford Elementary School, it was agreed that surveillance can go ahead for that location only.

19/138

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the District move forward with the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras for Nicola-Canford Elementary School.

MOTION CARRIED

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mental Health Initiative Grant

The Superintendent handed out a report on the Mental Health Grant Plan and discussed the 2019/2020 proposed and completed plans for mental health literacy and mental health curriculum. The Superintendent will report back on the progress.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Trustee Code of Conduct

The Superintendent distributed a memo and Trustee Ward presented a draft Trustee Code of Conduct policy. Trustee Ward vocalized the need for Trustees to adhere to competencies. The Policy Committee is focussing on developing a positive and concise document that emphasizes equity and culture in the District. Trustees provided their feedback after reviewing the draft. The Policy Committee will schedule a meeting to make the suggested revisions.

Revised 603.2 Field Trip Policy

The Assistant Superintendent distributed a memo and the revised draft 603.2 Field Trip Policy. The draft policy was sent to Principals, Parent Advisory Councils and placed on the District website for feedback.

19/139

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the following draft policy be read for a third and final time:

- 603.2 Field Trip Policy

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Revised 502.5 Smoking-Vaping and the Use of Smokeless Tobacco Policy

The Superintendent distributed a memo and the revised draft 502.5 Smoking-Vaping and the Use of Smokeless Tobacco Policy.

19/140

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the Assistant Superintendent create a sequence of consequences document to attach to the Smoking-Vaping and the Use of Tobacco Policy (502.5) before we bring forward recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Provincial Council Representation Assembly

The Vice-Chair discussed the amended motion on vaping that was passed at BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council.

Trustee Reports

The following Trustees reported on recent PAC meetings:

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

Trustee Chenoweth reported on Collettville Elementary and Kengard Learning Centre.

Trustee Ward reported on Princeton Secondary.

Trustee Swan reported on Merritt Bench Elementary.

Trustee Comeau reported on John Allison Elementary.

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Moyes report on recent events at Merritt Secondary School. The Leadership group provides student volunteers for school events. The WeCare group provides volunteers throughout the community. Link Leaders help transition Grade 8 students to the secondary school and volunteer at school events. Hallway monitors work to help pay down part of their grad fees. And the Big Buddies group helps at-risk kids.

Student Trustee Willey reported on recent events at Merritt Secondary School. Senior girls' volleyball, the swim team and the track and field are all excelling. Basketball is starting up. Muai-Thai and Jujitsu are still taking place. Girls' field hockey is starting up soon.

Other Reports

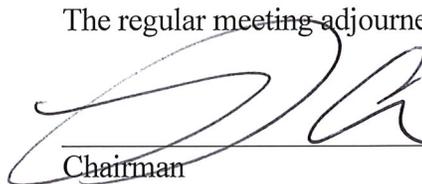
The Vice-Chair attended the Early Learning Conference and presented statistics on the Early Years Transition and Special Education Needs which explains benefits of Early Childhood Education versus at-home care for children aged 3-5 years.

CORRESPONDENCE**BC School Trustees Association Thompson Okanagan Branch Motion Process**

A memo from Carmen Ranta at BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) BCSTA was distributed which entailed clarification on the process and deadlines for Branch motions to BCSTA Annual General Meeting. The following branch processes have now been put into place: live voting at branch meetings rather than email, late motions may be received at the discretion of the executive, motions may be submitted by individual branch members, committees or individual trustees, motions may be presented on the floor of the branch meeting and branch executive will be responsible for motion submissions and follow-up.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary Treasurer