

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025, 6:00PM**

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 D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	H. Clark (Absent) J. Davis (Absent)
	Superintendent	C. Lawrance
	Assistant Superintendent	J. Kempston
	Interim Secretary Treasurer	H. Cull (Absent)
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	K. Buckland
	Manager of IT	E. Park

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

AGENDA

- 25/107 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw
THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

- 25/108 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen
THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held May 14, 2025, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the minutes of the (Un-adopted) Policy Committee Meeting held May 20, 2025, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Report of the Closed Meeting held May 14, 2025.

PRESENTATIONS

Jamie Umpleby – Crimson Tine Theatre

Jamie Umpleby gave a presentation on behalf of the Crimson Tine Theatre, a non-profit organization that stages two plays annually in Princeton. Crimson Tine Theatre addressed the Board to discuss the financial challenges posed by the new proposed facility rental rates. Typically, the group charges \$15-\$20 per ticket, but with the new rates, they will need to increase ticket prices by approximately \$10. The Crimson Tine Theatre asked that the Board reconsider the proposed increased rates. Jamie also inquired about the possibility of developing a drama program with the District.

MSS 2024-2025 Costa Rica Trip

The Principal of Merritt Secondary School, Ms. Adriane Mouland, introduced student Kassie Hall, who showcased a short video she created for her Capstone project about the recent trip to Costa Rica taken by several MSS students over Spring Break.

2026-2027 – Costa Rica Trip (MSS) – Approval in Principle

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

THAT the Board supports Merritt Secondary School's trip to Costa Rica for Spring Break during 2026-2027 school year.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION

Indigenous Education Report:

District Principal of Indigenous Education, Angela McIvor, introduced two students, Nolan Garcia and Estrella Jackson, who spoke about their trip to the Inspire Soaring Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering, a conference for Indigenous students that they attended in April.

Early Learning and Child Care Report:

Superintendent Lawrance presented the written report submitted by District Vice Principal of Early Learning and Childcare, Daniella Bennie, highlighting all the hard work that Daniella dedicates to the afterschool care programs, literacy events and organizing games night with families across the District.

Health Promoting Schools Coordinator / Feeding Futures Update

Lisa Nelson-Smith, Health Promoting Schools Coordinator, provided a presentation and update on Health Promoting School and Feeding Futures. She highlighted the various events and initiatives that students within the District are involved in to promote healthy decision-making and physical activity.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent circulated and spoke to her report, reflecting on the District events that have taken place over the past month.

OPERATIONS

2026 – 2027 Major 5-year Capital Plan Submission

25/111

It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board of Education approved the submission of the 2026/2027 Five-Year Capital Plan as distributed and presented by the Acting Secretary Treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Manager Update

Operations Manager Darrell Finigan presented his update on School District operations over the past year including work orders, bussing, HVAC, and vandalism.

Bus Cost Recovery

Superintendent Lawrance presented a memo to the Board regarding the funding that the District received from the Ministry. There was a discussion about whether to charge rural students a fee to ride the bus to and from school. The Board decided not to charge rural students a bussing fee. Additionally, the Board agreed not to implement a cost recovery nonsubsidized ridership fee for students within the walk limits.

Logo Roll Out – Mailboxes

Assistant Superintendent Jane Kempston presented the new suggestion box that will feature the District logo. These will be present in all schools, allowing students to ask a question, make suggestions, or even pose inquiries to the Superintendent or the Board.

Riverside Learning Centre Update

Assistant Superintendent Kempston informed the Board that the Grand opening of the Riverside Daycare is set for June 24, 2025, and it will be invite only.

AUDIT AND FINANCE

IEC Preliminary Budget

Assistant Superintendent Kempston presented the Board with the IEC Preliminary Budget, noting that the IEC will meet again on July 2, 2025. The IEC Preliminary Budget will be presented to the Board at the next Open Board Meeting on September 10, 2025.

POLICY

First Reading

6.51 Disposal of Land or Improvements

25/112 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board approve Policy 6.51: Disposal of Land or Improvements, for first reading and send out for consultation.

MOTION CARRIED

6.50 School Closure

25/113 It was moved by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board move Policy 6.50: School Closure, for first reading and send out for consultation.

MOTION CARRIED

Second Reading

3.50 Nsyilxcən and Nfeʔkepmxcín and Culture

25/114 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.50: Nsyilxcən and Nfeʔkepmxcín and Culture, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

6.20 Signing Authorities

25/115 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board approve Policy 6.20: Signing Authorities, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

6.30 Expense Reimbursement

25/116 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board approve Policy 6.30: Expense Reimbursement, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

6.40 Public Use of Facilities

25/117 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board approve Policy 6.40: Public Use of Facilities, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

6.60 Video Surveillance

25/118 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board approve Policy 6.60: Video Surveillance, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

6.70 Student Transportation

25/119 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Chenoweth

THAT the Board approve Policy 6.70: Student Transportation, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Third Reading

25/120

2.60 Respectful Learning and Working Communities

It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the Board approve Policy 2.60: Respectful Learning and Working Communities, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Policies Recommended for Repeal

None.

Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Reports

Both Student Trustees were unable to attend tonight's Board meeting.

P.A.C. Reports

Trustee Hoisington has no PAC report on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on SCIDES and Collettsville Elementary.

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 PAC meeting.

Chair Swan reported on Bench Elementary and MSS.

Other Reports:

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE:

NONE

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

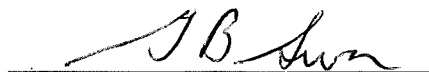
NONE

ADJOURNMENT

25/121

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Open Board meeting be adjourned at 8:20pm


Chairperson


Secretary Treasurer

