

## MINUTES

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

**PRINCETON SECONDARY SCHOOL, BOARD ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025, 6:00 PM**

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*Success for ALL Learners Today and Tomorrow*

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Present:	Chairperson	G. Swan
	Vice-Chair	L. Ward
	Trustees	J. Jepsen J. Kent-Laidlaw E. Hoisington (Absent) J. Chenoweth D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	M. William S. Pioquid
	Superintendent	C. Lawrance (Virtual)
	Assistant Superintendent	M. Sheldon (Virtual)
	Secretary Treasurer	M. Friesen
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	K. Buckland

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY**

### **AGENDA**

*Chair Swan recommended to move 11.a (Student Trustee's reports) to after the approval of the agenda.*

25/165 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Student Trustee Reports**

Assistant Superintendent Sheldon invited the Student Trustees to consider how service relates to learning and leadership within their schools. The Student Trustees noted that Remembrance Day prompted them to reflect on the sacrifices of others, emphasizing that student leadership is shown through acts of service, such as supporting fellow students and organizing school events.

## **MINUTES**

25/166

It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held October 8, 2025, be adopted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

### **Report of the Closed Meeting held October 8, 2025.**

## **EDUCATION**

### **Inclusive Education, Early Learning and Childcare Update**

Superintendent Lawrance informed the Trustees that the October 24<sup>th</sup> Professional Development day, the District Education Assistants participated in Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) Training and mentioned that the next opportunity to complete their CPI training is in February 2026.

### **Indigenous Education Update**

Superintendent Lawrance informed the Trustees that, on October 24th, during the Professional Development Day, the Coldwater Indian Band organized a culture camp in their community. The event was well attended by both staff and senior administration.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

## **OPERATIONS**

### **Potential School Closure Community Consultation Update**

Superintendent Lawrance provided Trustees with an update on the ongoing community consultations about possible school closures. The largest attendance was seen at Central, Collettsville, and Coldwater schools. Superintendent Lawrance mentioned frequently asked questions focused on the criteria for selecting schools, deferred maintenance expenses, financial considerations, and the effects on students and staff. Additional community consultations are planned for January and February 2026, with a final decision regarding school closures expected in March 2026.

## **AUDIT AND FINANCE**

### **Quarterly Report**

Secretary Treasurer Friesen presented the quarterly financial report for the period ending September 30, 2025, emphasizing significant variances from the budget. He noted that replacement staff expenses are currently lower than anticipated, which is attributed to a larger budget allocation for this year. Secretary Treasurer Friesen mentioned updating future reports to include year-end projections for greater clarity.

## **POLICY**

### **Third Reading**

#### **3.42 Selection of Learning Resources**

25/167

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

THAT the Board approve Policy 3.42 Selection of Learning Resources, forward for third and final reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Policies Recommended for Repeal**

None.

#### **Trustee Reports:**

##### **P.A.C. Reports**

Trustee Hoisington was not present for this meeting.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on Collettsville Elementary and SCIDES.

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

Trustee Jepsen reported on Diamond Vale Elementary and, unfortunately, missed the Merritt Central Elementary PAC meeting.

Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary PAC meeting.

Chair Swan reported on Bench Elementary and MSS PAC.

#### **Trustee Branch Meeting Report**

Trustee Chenoweth reported on the Trustee Branch meeting that was held in Kamloops on October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### **Other Reports:**

Trustee Rainer updated the Trustees that BCPSEA will have its 32nd annual general meeting on January 29th; bargaining dates for BCTF are November 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th; and C.U.P.E bargaining dates are November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Trustee Jepsen informed the Trustees that the Tumbleweed Preschool is asking for a letter of support to apply for a gaming grant. They are a non-profit organization.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**


NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

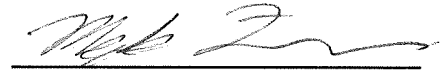
25/168

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

THAT the Open Board meeting be adjourned at 7:03 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Jepsen", written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Jepsen", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary Treasurer