

MINUTES

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

**MERRITT BOARD OFFICE, BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, 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 (Virtual) J. Chenoweth D. Rainer
	Superintendent	C. Lawrance
	Assistant Superintendent	M. Sheldon
	Secretary Treasurer	M. Friesen
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	L. Rusnjak
	Executive Assistant	K. Buckland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND METIS COMMUNITY

AGENDA

26/039 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES

26/040 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held February 11th, 2026, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

EDUCATION

Indigenous Education Report

District Principal of Indigenous Education Angela McIvor presented the “How Are We Doing” report highlighting Indigenous student outcomes and concerns.

Inclusive Education, Early Learning and Childcare Report

The Superintendent presented the written report from the Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education and Early Learning/Child Care, Adriane Mouland, highlighting the Ready, Set, Learn events that were recently held at each of our elementary schools and were very well attended by families across the district.

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.

OPERATIONS

Potential School Closure Update

Chair Swan led the Board in discussion regarding the potential school closure.

26/041 It was moved by Trustee Everett and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board moves Option 4: Close Collettsville Elementary, move French Immersion to Merritt Central Elementary as a dual track school.

MOTION CARRIED

26/042 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 58, in accordance with Section 73 of the School Act, approve the permanent closure of Collettsville Elementary School, Facility No. 05831009, located at 615 Lindley Creek Road, Merritt, BC on June 30, 2026 by giving School Closure Bylaw 2026-01-Collettsville Elementary School first reading this 11th day of March, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

26/043 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Rainer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 58, in accordance with Section 73 of the School Act, approve the permanent closure of Collettsville Elementary School, Facility No. 05831009, located at 615 Lindley Creek Road, Merritt, BC on June 30, 2026 by giving School Closure Bylaw 2026-01-Collettsville Elementary School second reading this 11th day of March, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

26/044 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with Section 68(4) of the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 58, unanimously agrees to give all three readings of School Closure Bylaw 2026-01-Collettsville Elementary School at this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

26/045 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Rainer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 58, in accordance with Section 73 of the School Act, approve the permanent closure of Collettsville Elementary School, Facility No. 05831009, located at 615 Lindley Creek Road, Merritt, BC on June 30, 2026 by giving School Closure Bylaw 2026-01- Collettsville Elementary School third and final reading, and passing adopting this bylaw this 11th day of March, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

AUDIT AND FINANCE

None

POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Administrative Procedures

The Board reviewed the Compression or Weighted Vest and Blankets, as well as the Parent Advisory Councils (PAC and DPAC) administrative procedures.

Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Reports

No student trustees were present at the meeting.

P.A.C. Reports

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary.

Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary PAC.

Trustee Chenoweth reported on Collettsville Elementary and SCIDES.

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School.

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

Trustee Ward reported on Vermilion Forks Elementary PAC.

Chair Swan was reported on Bench Elementary and MSS PAC Meeting.

Other Reports:

Trustee Kent-Laidlaw provided an update to the trustees on the Provincial Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Ewa Olguin Resendiz – When did the city council say that they are approving the closure of the school?

Chair Swan – **The City Mayor asked for a delay and our response was, if you can fund the difference in the number of students, which we have not heard back from the city.**

Ewa Olguin Resendiz – What was the amount that the School District received from the government for the repairs from the flood?

Chair Swan – **It was about \$21 million between Merritt Central Elementary, Dimond Vale Elementary, Merritt Secondary School and the Board Office.**

Ewa Olguin Resendiz – Did the insurance for all the schools paid back anything to the schools to renovate on top government insurance?

Chair Swan – The government is self insured.

Ewa Olguin Resendiz – When will the students from Collettsville start the move to Central, end of June?

Chair Swan – I imagine the superintendent will be working with both schools to have some events prior to the end of school so kids can get integrated and used to the school. Their first official date at Central will be in September.

ADJOURNMENT

26/046

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Open Board meeting be adjourned at 8:26pm



Chairperson



Secretary Treasurer