MINUTES

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

MERRITT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 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 J. Chenoweth D. Rainer
	Student Trustees	S. Sterling
	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

MINUTES

26/074 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held April 8th, 2026, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

26/075 It was moved by Trustee Hoisington and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the minutes of the Open Meeting held May 13th, 2026, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Board Authorized Course Presentation – Val Grimshire and Dan Duncan

SCIDES teacher Val Grimshire presented three new Board-Authorized Courses for approval:

- Learning Methods 10 (4 credits)
- Learning Practices 11 (4 credits)
- Personal Wellness and Resiliency 12 (4 credits)

Theses courses support online and diverse learners by teaching executive functioning, study habits, self-regulation, and mental health strategies.

26/076 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approves the three Board-Authorized Courses as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Strategic Plan Framework – Harold Cull and Jane Kempston

Consultants Harold Cull and Jane Kempston presented an update on the District's Strategic Plan development, including a dynamic annual strategy model with yearly updates, well-being as the foundational pillar, and a community feedback process beginning after the August Committee of the Whole, with the Board expressing support for the evolving framework.

EDUCATION

Indigenous Education Report

The Superintendent presented a written report from Angela McIvor, District Principal of Indigenous Education, highlighting the Indigenous graduation and blanketing ceremony, which recognized 79 graduates and was attended by more than 630 supporters.

Inclusive Education, Early Learning and Childcare Report

Adriane Mouland, Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education and Early Learning/Child Care, led the Board through a hands-on activity that demonstrated how incoming 2026 Kindergarten students will be welcomed into the District prior to their first day of school in September.

2026-2027 – Quebec Trip (École Merritt Central Elementary School)

Superintendent Lawrance provided Trustees with an overview of the proposed Quebec Trip in May 2027 that will include 18 students, 2 school chaperones and 2 parent chaperones.

26/077 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board supports École Merritt Central Elementary School's proposal for their field trip to Quebec City.

MOTION CARRIED

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

2027-2028 Major 5-Year Capital Plan Submission

26/078 It was moved by Trustee Jepsen and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the Board of Education approved the submission of the 2027/2028 Major 5-Year Capital Plan as distributed and presented but the Secretary Treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED

Operations Manager Update

Operation Manager Darrell Finnigan presented his update on the School District operations over the past year including work orders, bussing, HVAC and air-quality upgrades, and the update on the sewer line failure at Diamond Vale School.

Amendment to Bylaw 2.23

Secretary Treasurer Friesen presented the proposed amendment to Bylaw 2.23 that will prevent the Board's public meetings from being used in ways that could promote or advantage political candidates during an election and ensure the Board remains neutral and transparent.

26/079 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approves Bylaw 2.23, Procedural Bylaw, forward first and second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

26/080 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward

THAT the Board approves Bylaw 2.23, Procedural Bylaw, be moved to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

26/081 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Board approves Bylaw 2.23, Procedural Bylaw, forward third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Election Bylaw 1.26

26/082 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board approves Bylaw 1.26, Trustee Election, forward first and second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

26/083 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approves Bylaw 1.26, Trustee Election, be moved to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

26/084 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the Board approves Bylaw 1.26, Trustee Election, forward third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

AUDIT AND FINANCE

2026-2027 Annual Budget Bylaw – 2nd and 3rd Reading

Secretary Treasurer Friesen presented the 2026-2027 Annual Budget with a total budget bylaw of $40,573,111.00, built on the enrolment projection and estimated funding grants provided by the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

26/085 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Hoisington

THAT the 2026-2027 Annual Budget Bylaw total budget of $40,573,111.00, forward for second reading.

MOTION CARRIED

26/086 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the 2026-2027 Annual Budget Bylaw total budget of $40,573,111.00 be moved to third reading.

MOTION CARRIED

26/087 It was moved by Trustee Rainer and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the 2026-2027 Annual Budget Bylaw total budget of $40,573,111.00, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Restricted Funds Transfer

Secretary Treasurer Friesen presented his memo to the Board, seeking direction on how they would like to allocate any residual funds.

26/088 It was moved by Trustee Chenoweth and seconded by Trustee Rainer

THAT the Board approve the transfer of restricted funds as outlined in Secretary Treasurer Friesen's memo.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Third Reading

1.31 Role of the Superintendent

26/089 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approved Policy 1.31, Role of the Superintendent, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

1.32 Role of the Secretary Treasurer

26/090 It was moved by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Kent-Laidlaw

THAT the Board approved Policy 1.32, Role of the Secretary Treasurer, forward for third and final reading.

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Reports:

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Shanny Sterling shared her ideas from her perspective, what is one specific change schools could make that would most improve students' sense of belonging and connection.

P.A.C. Reports

Trustee Hoisington reported on Nicola Canford Elementary School PAC.
Trustee Rainer reported on John Allison Elementary PAC.
Trustee Chenoweth reported on Collettville Elementary School and SCIDES PAC.
Trustee Kent-Laidlaw reported on Princeton Secondary School PAC.
Trustee Jepsen reported on Diamond Vale Elementary and Merritt Central Elementary PACs.
Trustee Ward reported on Vermillion Forks Elementary PAC.
Chair Swan reported on Bench Elementary and MSS PACs.

Other Reports:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

26/091 Motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Ward and seconded by Trustee Jepsen

THAT the Open Board meeting be adjourned at 8:29pm

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer