

Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	H. Larson
Vice Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	D. Tablotney
Trustee	D. Yang
Superintendent of Schools	C. Usih
Deputy Superintendent	R. Ryan
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
Assistant Superintendent	J. MacMillan
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
Assistant Superintendent	C. Stanger
Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies	R. Laing
Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	T. Lee

Regrets:

Trustee	A. Wong
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The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

1. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements, Trustees' Updates

(a) Recognition of Visitors

The Chairperson welcomed the gallery to the meeting.

(b) Announcements

Trustee Hamaguchi: Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events event focused on promoting a healthy, sustainable habitat for all. The official theme for 2024 is Planet vs Plastics, focusing on reducing plastic use and calling for a 60% reduction in the

production of all plastics by 2040. In Richmond, schools will plan for different individual classroom and school activities to honour Earth Day. Many Green Teams, composed of students across grades, will lead the way in designing and supporting environmental initiatives. Earth Day connects to the district's Strategic Plan Priority One: Inspired Learners, focusing on learner involvement in activities that raise awareness of, and increase engagement in, global citizenry and environmental stewardship. In addition to Earth Day, our schools celebrate and support environmental stewardship in a variety of ways throughout the year, demonstrating commitment to our planet, today and every day.

Trustee Yang: April is Sikh Heritage month in Canada. It was first officially recognized by the Government of Canada in 2019. Its purpose is to celebrate the contributions of all Sikh-Canadians and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of a rich, unique, and diverse heritage of the Sikh faith and culture. This month students of all ages have been learning about the contributions of Sikh Canadians. Posters were sent to all schools which provide information on Sikh contributions and history.

This April is also a month in which several of the faiths represented in our schools are observing religious celebrations. This past month, our schools have recognized Easter, Passover and Ramadan in a variety of ways to ensure that our students learn and/or are represented in the different faiths and cultures that make up our schools.

Trustee Sargent: Tonight, we will be providing partner group representatives and members of the public an opportunity to speak directly to Trustees on their budget priorities. We will be using a portion of tonight's Board meeting for a Budget Committee of the Whole. During the Committee of the Whole, we will receive presentations and briefs on the budget or if you have comments or questions, you can email them to boardmeetings@sd38.bc.ca.

I would also encourage you to visit our Budget Process webpage to access information on our budget as well as submit your budget feedback.

(c) **Any materials not included in packages available to the public**

The Secretary Treasurer noted all materials had been made available to the public on the district website.

2. Adoption of Agenda

051/2024 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY K. HAMAGUCHI:

THAT the Wednesday, March 13, 2024 regular agenda of the Board of Education be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) **Presentations**

Nil.

(b) **Briefs**

Nil.

(c) **Special Recognition**

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association presented a question ahead of agenda Item 7 (b) – "Strategic Plan – Quarterly Update Strategic Priority 4 and 5", regarding the update on Strategic Priority 5. She inquired about improvements for the district website to provide information on the alternate programs in the district.

5. Executive

The Superintendent noted schools will be closed for Spring Break from March 15, 2024 to April 1, 2024, and wished students, family and staff a happy Spring Break.

He then highlighted the StrongStart program, an early learning program designed for children aged 0 to 5 and introduced Assistant Superintendent MacMillan to present a video, "Inspiring Early Learners – Building Foundations for the Future." Assistant Superintendent MacMillan highlighted that the video would showcase one of the five schools in the StrongStart program, and noted more information on early learning programs can be found on the district website.

Assistant Superintendent MacMillan then responded to trustees' questions regarding registration and locations for the program.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, February 21, 2024 was included for information.
- (b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, February 21, 2024

052/2024 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, February 21, 2024, regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

(a) Preliminary 2024/25 Annual Budget

053/2024 MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education move into a committee of the whole to allow for all members of the public in attendance to have the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the 2024/25 annual budget and that the Superintendent facilitate the discussion.

CARRIED

The Superintendent assumed the role of Chair and asked the Secretary Treasurer to speak to her Budget Report as attached to the agenda package.

The Secretary Treasurer provided highlights of the 2024/25 Budget process, currently underway, and noted the preliminary three-year base budget is projected to be balanced, based on the budget assumptions and available information. She thanked education partner groups and staff for their input and feedback.

The Superintendent then called on Partner Group Representatives to present their budget briefs to the Board:

1. Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA)

Ms. Baverstock thanked the Board of Education and Secretary Treasurer for the transparent annual budget process and for the opportunity to provide feedback and listen to the priorities of partner groups. She appreciated the considerations in the budget proposals responding to RTA's budget feedback including the focus on recruitment, retention, mentoring support, and the Classroom Enhancement Fund.

She then further clarified the specialist teacher ratio following a question from the Chairperson.

2. Stacey Robinson, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 716 and Nancy Williams, 1st Vice President, CUPE Local 716

Ms. Robinson thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to present and appreciated the inclusion of the additional 11.6 FTEs for Education Assistants in the budget proposals. She then presented the following considerations to the budget proposal:

- Making at least one FTE an EA consultant position; and
- Making three of the EA positions regular unassigned learning services.

A trustee commented noting the appreciation of the care and attention EAs bring to students.

3. Gordon Fitt, President, Richmond Association of School Administrators (RASA)

Mr. Fitt appreciated the opportunity to provide RASA's perspective on the proposed budget, noting the concerns of the impact of City Centre enrolment pressures and the persistent issue of daily and systemic staffing shortages. He appreciated the focus of the budget proposals on inspired learners and to provide critical support for the system will enable school leaders to concentrate on delivering the best possible educational experiences for our students.

Mr. Fitt then responded to a trustee's question regarding the budgetary implications for his concerns.

Trustees thanked the partner group presidents for their briefs and the Secretary Treasurer then responded to questions from trustees regarding the budget proposal.

The Superintendent turned the Chair over to Trustee Larson. Trustee Larson assumed the Chair.

054/2024 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education rise and report from the committee of the whole discussion on the 2024/25 annual budget.

CARRIED

055/2024 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education refer all partner groups' input and feedback to the budget process.

CARRIED

(b) **Strategic Plan – Quarterly Update Strategic Priority 4 and 5**

The Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources spoke to his report as included in the agenda package. He highlighted Strategic Priority 4 – A Progressive Workplace. The Director of Communications and Marketing and Assistant Superintendent Naser then highlighted Strategic Priority 5 – A Connected Learning Community. Trustees thanked staff for their work and staff then responded to trustees' questions regarding the two strategic priorities.

8. New Business

Nil.

9. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) **Audit Committee**

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Alice Wong

A meeting was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

(b) **Education Committee**

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

(c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on February 7, 2024, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Donna Sargent

Vice Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 10:00 am.

(e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

(i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 701.2-R: Capital Project Design Review Process

The Committee Chairperson spoke to the report as included in the agenda package.

056/2024 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the attached revised **Policy 701.2-R: Capital Project Design Review Process**, in accordance with Board Policy 204: *Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations*.

CARRIED

(ii) The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2024, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

(a) **Council/Board Liaison Committee**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 9:30 am.

(b) **BCSTA**

BCSTA Provincial Council was held on February 24, 2024. Trustee Yang noted there were no substantive motions and the meeting primarily focused on housekeeping matters.

BCSTA AGM will be held on April 18-21, 2024 – Trustees have been registered.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Trustee Tablotney noted she attended a learning session on the topic of Conflict of Interest.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Nil.

13. Adjournment

057/2024 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY K. HAMAGUCHI:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, March 13, 2024 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:59 pm.

CARRIED

H. LARSON
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer