

Board of Education
Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	H. Larson
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	D. Tablotney
Trustee	A. Wong
Superintendent of Schools	C. Usih
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
Assistant Superintendent	R. Laing
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
Assistant Superintendent	B. Thompson
Executive Director, Human Resources	T. Major
Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	T. Lee

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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

Nil.

(b) Announcements

Trustee Larson: During the month of June, we celebrate National Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage, and diversity of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This month is a time to learn about, appreciate, and acknowledge the significant contributions that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples have made in shaping our country.

In addition, we recognize and honour National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, which coincides with the summer solstice. This day serves as an annual reminder to celebrate the

rich heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

Aligned with the Board's Strategic Plan, the histories, perspectives, and learning approaches of Indigenous Peoples are meaningfully embedded in district planning and practice. Students are provided with authentic opportunities to learn about, respect, and engage with Indigenous cultures throughout the year.

National Indigenous History Month is a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to honour, uplift, and amplify Indigenous voices in the spirit of truth, understanding, and reconciliation.

Trustee Wong: As noted in the board's strategic plan, the district actively addresses unconscious bias and privilege, systemic discrimination and marginalization based on factors such as ability, colour, cultural identity, gender, gender identity, Indigeneity, political beliefs, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.

With this commitment, each year the Richmond School District recognizes and supports Pride Season, which refers to the wide range of Pride events that take place over the summer (June to September) when 2SLGBTQI+ communities and allies come together to spotlight the resilience, celebrate the talent, and recognize the contributions of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Although special attention is put on the Pride events during the summer months, they happen throughout the year in many communities.

Our district would like to acknowledge the 2SLGBTQI+ communities and their allies, recognize their positive contributions to our community and wish everyone a Happy Pride Season!

(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

094/2025 MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED D. YANG:

THAT the Wednesday, May 21, 2025 regular agenda of the Board of Education be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) Presentations

Richmond Secondary, McRoberts Secondary, and Palmer Secondary

Assistant Superintendent Thompson welcomed students from Richmond, McRoberts, and Palmer Secondary Schools to present on Student Voices in Mental Health, aligning with Strategic Plan Priority 1 – Inspired Learners. She then invited Connie Easton, the District Coordinator for Mental Health, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), and Counselling, to introduce the students and present their projects on mental health, including Beyond the Blues, Here4Peers, and Agenda Gap.

Trustees thanked the students for their presentation. The students then responded to various questions from trustees regarding their presentation.

(b) **Briefs**

Nil.

(c) **Special Recognition**

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Thompson responded to a question from a member of the public about supporting student mental health and related initiatives.

5. Executive

The Superintendent highlighted the following:

- The unveiling of a mural at Tomsett Elementary, designed by Richmond alumnus Laura in collaboration with students and staff;
- The district Indigenous Learning Day on May 16, 2025; and
- Appreciation for colleagues, district-wide, as the end of the school year approaches, recognizing their efforts in supporting student success and collaboration.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, April 23, 2025 was included for information.
- (b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, April 23, 2025

095/2025 MOVED BY A. WONG AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, April 23, 2025 regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

- (c) A record of an in-camera special meeting of the board held Wednesday, May 7, 2025 was included for information.

- (d) A record of an in-camera special meeting of the board held Monday, May 12, 2025 was included for information.

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

(a) 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw – Three Readings

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. She noted that the Annual Budget Bylaw and its supporting financial statements were prepared in accordance with the public sector accounting standards. She then thanked the Finance Team for their work in completing the budget documents and education partner groups for their input and feedback throughout the budget process.

In response to a trustee's question, the Secretary Treasurer clarified the reported deficit is a non-cash capital amortization item, not an operating shortfall, and the operating budget is balanced.

There was unanimous consensus that three readings of the 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw take place.

The Chairperson then read the first reading of the 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw in full:

ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW

A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND) (called the "Board") to adopt the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2025/2026 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

1. The Board has complied with the provisions of the *Act*, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry of Education and Child Care Policies respecting the Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 38 (Richmond) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2025/2026.
3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2025/2026 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$371,871,761 for the 2025/2026 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the *Act*.
4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

096/2025 FIRST READING MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

CARRIED

The Chairperson then read the second reading of the bylaw in summary:

The Annual Budget Bylaw has been prepared in accordance with the School Act, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry policies. The total budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year amounts to \$371,871,761. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

097/2025 SECOND READING MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

CARRIED

The Chairperson then read the third reading of the bylaw in summary:

The Annual Budget Bylaw has been prepared in accordance with the School Act, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry policies. The total budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year amounts to \$371,871,761. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

Trustees then provided their views and feedback regarding the annual budget process and thanked the Secretary Treasurer and the Finance team for their work and thanked education partner groups for their collaboration.

098/2025 THIRD AND FINAL READING MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:

CARRIED

The 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw having been read a first, second and third time, is passed and adopted this 21st day of May 2025.

The Chairperson then read the motion to approve authorized signatories for the 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw.

099/2025 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

FURTHER THAT the Board authorize the Chairperson of the Board, Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer to sign and submit the 2025/26 Annual Budget to the Ministry of Education and Child Care before June 30, 2025.

CARRIED

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their work and contribution during the annual budget process.

8. New Business

(a) Advocacy to Members of Parliament regarding federal programs

Trustee Yang noted Richmond's two new Members of Parliament (MPs) following last month's federal election and emphasized the importance of advocating for students, families, and community needs, stressing the need for federal support of local public education.

100/2025 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:

THAT the Board of Education write a letter to Richmond Members of Parliament to highlight education priorities of the Richmond School District.

AND FURTHER THAT the letter requests support for issues and programs that relate to the federal government, including:

- Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS);
- National School Food Program; and
- Early learning and child care.

Trustee Yang provided rationale for the motion. Following discussion, including a request to meet with the MPs, trustees proceeded to vote on the motion.

CARRIED

9. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) Audit Committee

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Rod Belleza

A meeting was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2025.

(b) Education Committee

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on April 16, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

(c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on April 2, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Donna Sargent

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on April 16, 2025, are attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 10:00 am.

(e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 102 Diversity and Inclusion.

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

Trustees expressed appreciation to staff for their work on revising the policy.

101/2025 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Board of Education approve revised ***Policy 102: Diversity and Inclusion***, in accordance with Board Policy 204: Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations.

CARRIED

- (ii) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 103 Bylaw: Complaints and Appeals by Students, Parents and the Public.

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

A trustee commented on the distribution of the policy to better guide students and families.

102/2025 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve revised ***Policy 103 Bylaw: Complaints and Appeals by Students, Parents and the Public***, in

accordance with Board Policy 204: Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations.

CARRIED

- (iii) A Notice of Motion for the June 18, 2025 Public Board Meeting regarding Policy 201 Bylaw: Board Operations was attached for information.
- (iv) Minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Monday, May 12, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2025, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

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

A meeting was held on April 30, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2025.

- (b) **BCSTA**

BCSTA Annual General Meeting was held on April 24-26, 2025.

- (c) **BCPSEA**

Nil.

12. Correspondence

- (a) For action:

Nil.

- (b) For information:

- (i) Letter from the Board of Education to the Minister of Immigration, Citizenship, and Refugees regarding LINC Program dated May 14, 2025.

13. Adjournment

103/2025 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, May 21, 2025 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:42 pm.

CARRIED

K. HAMAGUCHI
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer