

School District No. 38 (Richmond)
7811 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 3E3

FINANCE & LEGAL COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of a **PUBLIC** meeting of the Finance & Legal Committee held in the 1st Floor Meeting Room, School District Administration Building, 7811 Granville Avenue, Richmond BC, on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Ken Hamaguchi, Committee Chairperson
Debbie Tablotney, Trustee Member
Norm Goldstein, Trustee Alternate
Scott Robinson, Deputy Superintendent
Roy Uyeno, Secretary Treasurer
Maria Fu, Director, Financial Services
Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Tim McCracken, 1st Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Lynne Farquharson, Past President, Richmond Retired Teachers' Association
Wanda Plante, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Regrets:

Richard Lee, Trustee, Committee Vice-Chairperson
Laura Buchanan, Executive Director Human Resources
Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Planning & Development
Mike Beausoleil, Director, Maintenance, Operations & Transportation
Jose Pelayo, President, Richmond Management Administration Professional Staff
Dionne McFie, President, Richmond District Parents' Association*

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 20, 2019 public meeting were approved.

3. TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to forward the following:

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) is paying for expenses incurred by the Trustees in the discharge of their duties.

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approves Trustees' expenses paid during the three-month period ended March 31, 2019, in the amount of \$9,768.72.

4. DRAFT JOINT DISTRICT RESPONSE LETTER RE: FUNDING MODEL REVIEW

The letter addressed to the Minister of Education regarding Recommendations of the Funding Model Review letter was included with the agenda package and the Secretary Treasurer spoke to it in which he highlighted three key recommendations that would have the most impact to the current funding model.

Recommendation 6

The Ministry should create a single Inclusive Education Supplement that incorporates all of the following:

- *Supplemental Special Needs Funding*
- *Supplement for Vulnerable Students*
- *CommunityLINK*
- *Ready Set Learn*
- *Supplemental Student Location Factor*
- *Funding currently in the Basic Allocation that was previously allocated to high incidence categories of special needs*

The district is concerned that providing funding to vulnerable students based on a 'prevalence' model will potentially result in less funding to support services for our vulnerable students. The current funding model does not adequately service vulnerable students and if the Ministry moves to a prevalence model, this could shift funding from districts which are providing higher levels of service to those districts that are not. There are potential equity issues as well as compliance issues with collective agreement language around class composition that will need to be addressed.

This is an area of underfunding currently and given no change to the quantum of funding, this recommendation could have the most impact on reallocating of funding from one district to another. Is the intent to provide funding on a service/needs basis or is this simply a different method of allocating funding?

Recommendation 8

The Ministry should eliminate the Classroom Enhancement Fund and allocate this funding as part of school district operating grants. This will require negotiated changes to collective agreement provisions.

This will be a challenging recommendation to implement given that the CEF is tied to collective agreement language and provisions that differ from school district to school district. While eliminating the CEF and including it in the operating grant will eliminate administration and reporting requirements, the current funding is specific for each district's requirements and unless there is a harmonization through negotiated changes to collective agreement provisions, school districts could be at risk of not sustaining the current staffing and related costs in complying with the MoU.

Recommendation 9

The Ministry should base funding allocations for school-age educational programming on the number of students, rather than on the number of courses being taken. The Ministry should phase out the current course-based funding model by the 2020/2021 school year.

The district is concerned that this recommendation will result in less flexibility and course choice for students and reduced funding for those students taking more than eight blocks. Student outcomes will be impacted and the recommendation conflicts with the personalized learning agenda of the Ministry. This will also result in fewer teachers and limit the school district in developing unique, creative and innovative course offerings.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

The Secretary Treasurer advised that feedback continues to be collected and reviewed to provide a refined budget proposal list to the Board for their approval.

6. The Secretary Treasurer advised that the 2019-2020 meeting schedule has been set beginning in September 2019. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday each month, (some exceptions).

Public meetings will commence at 11:00 am and the meeting location will be in the 1st floor Boardroom of the School Board office.

No meetings are scheduled in December or March.

The Richmond Retired Teachers' Association member advised attendees of the Open House at General Currie Heritage School for an opportunity to see the Heritage Collection and building on Friday, May 10, 2019 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

7. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

(a) CAMBIE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Hamaguchi, Chairperson
Finance & Legal Committee