

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 38 (RICHMOND)
7811 GRANVILLE AVENUE, RICHMOND, BC (via ZOOM)
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021
AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present:	Chairperson	S. Nixon
	Trustees	D. Tablotney
		N. Goldstein
		K. Hamaguchi
		H. Larson
		D. Sargent
		R. Lee
	Superintendent of Schools	S. Robinson
	Deputy Superintendent	R. Ryan
	Secretary Treasurer	R. Uyeno
	Assistant Superintendent	L. Archer
	Assistant Superintendent	C. Brautigam
	Executive Director, Human Resources	L. Buchanan
	Executive Director, Facilities Services	F. Geyer
	Executive Director , Learning Services	J. MacMillan
	Executive Director, Learning & Business Technology	R. Laing
	Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
	Executive Assistant, Recording Secretary	C. Cleary

The Chairperson called the meeting to order 7:04 pm

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hənq̓əminəm' (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

Secretary-Treasurer Uyeno - A reminder was made for those that joined the meeting to please ensure that video was turned off and microphones muted to eliminate background noise; there will be two question periods at which time, questions sent to the Board meeting email account will be read out. For those who have not already submitted questions, there is an opportunity to via: boardmeetings@sd38.bc.ca; or through the Q and A feature in Zoom.

For the public joining the meeting, they are able to listen to the meeting but not speak or use chatbox during the meeting; and an audio/video recording of the meeting will be made available for viewing after this meeting.

1. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements and Updates from Trustees

(a) Recognition of Visitors

The Chairperson welcomed the gallery to the meeting.

- (b) Trustee Tablotney** – Education Week will be held Monday, February 22 to Friday, February 26, 2021. Education Week is an opportunity to openly share the many remarkable things happening in Richmond schools. This year, due to the current public health orders, the district will be using the district website and social media to highlight the work of students, teachers and staff. The public is encouraged to visit www.sd38.bc.ca, as well as our Twitter and Facebook accounts, starting Monday, February 22.

Trustee Hamaguchi – Briefs regarding the 2021/2022 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the February 24, 2021 regular meeting of the Board, as well as at the March 31, 2021 and April 28, 2021 regular meetings of the Board. Please note that budget updates will be made available on the District’s Budget 2021/2022 website. All budget feedback will be considered by the Board as part of the budget process which is anticipated to be completed by June 2021.

Trustee Lee – February is Black History Month in Canada and has been nationally recognized since 1995. Black History Month is a time to reflect on the stories, experiences and accomplishments of Black Canadians. During Black History Month, our school district will celebrate the many achievements of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have contributed greatly to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today.

This year all schools are invited to engage in learning opportunities directly related to Black History Month and to share their learning on school websites and social media so the wider community can learn and celebrate together. Each week, a particular aspect of Black History month will be highlighted on our public website: *The History of Black History Month; Prominent Black Canadians: Including a spotlight on Harry Jerome and Viola Desmond; Being Black in Canada: Current stories and community experiences of Black Canadians; and Resources for engaging in and understanding current events.*

Black History Month opens the door not only to conversations about the significant contributions of Black Canadians, but also to the impacts of racism, and our commitment to make the Richmond School District a safe and respectful place for all members of our community.

Trustee Nixon – The 2021 Committee appointments list was included with the Public agenda package. It was noted that Superintendent Robinson would be listening to the public meeting but not be on video or speaking.

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

The Secretary Treasurer noted that all materials had been made available.

2. Adoption of Agenda

009/2021 MOVED BY R. LEE AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Wednesday, January 27, 2021 Regular agenda of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Special Recognitions, Briefs and Questions from the Public

(a) Presentations

Nil.

(b) Special Recognitions

Nil.

(c) Briefs

The Richmond Teacher's Association's (RTA), COVID-19 Membership Survey Brief received by the Board on January 22, 2021, was presented by President, Liz Baverstock.

Ms. Baverstock first provided background on the RTA COVID-19 Survey noting that the electronic survey had 694 out of 1600 members who responded. The results highlighted the following survey questions on current workload; what changes to Transitional learning workload members would like to see; concern about bringing COVID-19 to immediate family/household from school; worry or concern over health and safety in schools due to COVID-19; confidence in Provincial health and safety protocols; how could health & safety be improved; how could current exposure communication protocols be improved; what school district changes implemented in the 2020/21 school year, would members like to continue in future years; and what are key issues the RTA and BCTF should focus on with respect to COVID-19.

Ms. Baverstock provided feedback response to the questions raised by the RTA survey and thanked the District for the opportunity to present the Survey Brief.

Trustees thanked Ms. Baverstock for the Brief and had questions and comments. Trustees asked if the Brief had been sent to the Ministry of Education. Ms. Baverstock responded that it had not been sent to the Ministry. Trustees then asked that the Brief be referred to staff for further review and the Budget process.

010/2021 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY N. GOLDSTEIN:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) refer the Richmond Teachers' Association Brief to Staff and the Budget Process.

CARRIED

Ian Hillman, President, CUPE 716 provided a response noting support for the RTA brief as presented. Mr. Hillman noted that more PPE and mandatory wearing of masks was supported by his members. Communications protocols from the health authority were also noted as a concern on clarity and messaging. Mr. Hillman said he hoped communication would improve moving forward.

Chairperson Nixon thanked Mr. Hillman for his comments related to the Brief.

(d) Questions from the Public

Nil.

4. Executive

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools provided the Executive Report on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools, noting a continued steady decrease in the number of possible exposures in schools since mid-November which is very good news. The District's safety plans continue to work well, and schools will be asked to continue to focus on encouraging the use of masks with new posters that feature an 'encouragement' message to be distributed throughout the District's schools.

Assistant Superintendent Brautigam then provided an update on Black History Month and the Anti-Racism Working Group. February is Black History Month in Canada and this year all schools are being asked to engage in learning opportunities directly related to Black History.

To support teaching and learning about Black history in Canada, teacher consultants Rebeca Rubio and Leanne McColl created a centralized online site for SD38 staff. Resources include curated book lists, websites, films, documentaries, readings, events around town, and more, to support learning and provide supports for learning opportunities in schools. Assistant Superintendent Brautigam noted that bringing a spotlight on Black History month also brings attention to the recently formed Diversity and Anti-Racism Working Group. Formed in the Fall, the Working Group is comprised of members from all of internal stakeholders. To date, the Working Group has met five times and held discussions to elevate the profile of anti-racist education and teaching. Also, actions underway include launching an anti-racism resources online hub for all District staff.

An in-depth report will be presented at the February Public Board meeting and the Assistant Superintendent thanked the members of the Working Group for their time and dedication to the work to date.

Assistant Superintendent Archer then presented the activity update from the past month throughout the District's schools. The presentation highlighted Byng Elementary grades 2 and 3 students who celebrated the New Year by making some resolutions together; Homma Elementary grade 4 students Morgan Gow and Emmy Chan had their combined artwork chosen for Premier Horgan's Holiday cards; Richmond School District Visual Art Gallery has provided weekly arts webinars for transitional learning students; Gilmore Elementary school's *Connecting to the Outdoors* took kindergarten students on outdoor nature walks so they could be encouraged to connect to nature and a deeper understanding of the environment; Gilmore Elementary created a map of their heart; Palmer Secondary celebrated *Black Shirt Day*; MacNeill Secondary developed a paper chain to bring students together to help them feel more connected; Spul'u'kwuks Elementary created a *COVID-19 Museum* including stories, photos and physical artifacts about what life has been like during the pandemic; and Kidd Elementary will host a *Reading Marathon* that will encourage students to read 200+ books on inclusion and diversity over the next two months.

Trustees commented on how inspiring the Report is on Diversity and all the activities happening throughout District schools. The school updates will now be reported on the District website and Social Media.

5. Approval of Minutes

- (a) Regular meeting of the Board held December 16, 2020

011/2021 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Minutes of Wednesday, December 16, 2020 Regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

- (b) Record of an In-camera meeting of the Board held December 16, 2020 was included for information.

- (c) Record of a Special In-camera meeting of the Board held January 14, 2021 was included for information.

6. Business Arising

(a) Strategic Plan Update

The Deputy Superintendent presented the Strategic Plan Report on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools and details of the Communications Plan that will implement a comprehensive strategy to inform the community. Beginning on February 8th, messaging will be delivered using the following communication channels: email, District and School websites, print, newsletters, District Intranet, Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, WeChat) and other media. Copies of the Strategic Plan will be delivered to various locations throughout the community and also include Chinese translations of all materials.

Following Spring Break, the Deputy Superintendent noted that this Draft Plan will be brought to the Board for discussion and refinement based on feedback from Trustees. Staff will then make final adjustments to the implementation plan later in the Spring, with formal implementation of the plan at the end of June 2021.

Trustees were pleased to hear the Plan is available in Chinese and now available throughout the community. Trustees noted that the Plan reflects the priorities of the Board and the District and sets a clear path for the next five years.

(b) Education Week

The Director of Communications included background and program details for the upcoming Education Week to be held February 22 – 26, 2021. This year due to the current public health orders, the District will use virtual platforms to highlight the work of students, teachers and staff. Some highlights featured for this year's virtual event include a direct connection to the curriculum through the lens of the Strategic Plan. Each day of the week, the District will highlight school and classroom learning based on the Strategic priorities and goals.

Trustees thanked the Director of Communications for outlining the activities for Education week and in working to adapt and create a special alternative Education week for 2021.

7. New Business

Nil.

8. Questions from the Public: Tonight's Agenda

There were no questions submitted.

9. Standing Committee Reports

- (a) Audit Committee
Chair: Donna Sargent
Vice Chair: Norman Goldstein

A meeting was held on January 11, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021.

- (b) Education Committee
Chair: Heather Larson
Vice Chair: Donna Sargent

A meeting was held on January 20, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5 pm.

- (c) Facilities and Building Committee
Chair: Ken Hamaguchi
Vice Chair: Norman Goldstein

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 5 pm.

- (d) Finance and Legal Committee
Chair: Debbie Tablotney
Vice Chair: Ken Hamaguchi

- (i) **Recommendation:** Trustee Expenses for three months ending December 31, 2020.

012/2021 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

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 December 31, 2020, in the amount of \$1,570.02.

CARRIED

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held November 18, 2020 were attached for information.

A meeting was held on January 20, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 11 am.

- (e) Policy Committee
Chair: Sandra Nixon
Vice Chair: Debbie Tablotney

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held November 16, 2020 were attached for information.

A meeting was held on January 18, 2021. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 10:30 am.

10. Correspondence

Nil.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

(a) Council/Board Liaison Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 9:30 am via Zoom.

12. Adjournment

013/2021 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY N. GOLDSTEIN:

THAT the Regular meeting of Wednesday, January 27, 2021 of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adjourned at 8:32 pm.

CARRIED

S. NIXON,
CHAIRPERSON

R. UYENO,
SECRETARY TREASURER