

**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, MARCH 31, 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, Facilities Services	F. Geyer
	Executive Director , Learning Services	J. MacMillan
	Executive Director, Learning & Business Technologies	R. Laing
	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 Hamaguchi** – Briefs regarding the 2021/2022 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at tonight's regular meeting of the Board. Please note that budget updates will be made available on the District's Budget 2021/2022 website. At the April 28 2021 Board meeting, Stakeholders and the public will be invited to present during the Budget Committee of the Whole. 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 Goldstein – Earth Day takes place on April 22nd each year. Since its start in 1970, Earth Day has become an internationally celebrated event focused on promoting clean living and a healthy, sustainable habitat for all. Celebrating Earth Day serves as a conscious reminder of how important it is as individuals and communities to protect our planet.

In Richmond, schools are in the process of planning different individual classroom and school activities to honour Earth Day. Many *Green Teams* at our schools, composed of students across grades, lead the way in creating and supporting environmental initiatives. While the annual Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit will not take place in its usual format this year, students from K-12 have been invited to participate in a poster initiative celebrating Richmond’s biodiversity and unique habitat. Submissions will be shared on both the district and City of Richmond’s media channels, and the posters will be displayed during next year’s REaDY Summit.

In addition to Earth Day, our schools celebrate and support environmental stewardship in a variety of ways throughout the year. Whether it be through participation in district Eco-Wise grants, district initiatives such as “Lights out Lunch” and Zero Waste campaigns, or through schoolwide and individual actions, Richmond students and staff show great commitment to our environment, today and every day.

- (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

The Chairperson noted that New Business item 7 – regarding the Safe Return to School District allocations would be added to the agenda.

037/2021 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY N. GOLDSTEIN:

THAT the Wednesday, March 31, 2021 Regular agenda of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

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

- (a) **Presentations**

Nil.

- (b) **Special Recognitions**

Nil.

- (c) **Briefs**

A 2021-2022 Budget Brief was presented by Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers’ Association. Ms. Baverstock first thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Budget Brief and acknowledged the District shortfall of \$7.6 million that would be addressed in the RTA Brief.

Ms. Baverstock then outlined key points submitted including pandemic concerns that the Board support to ensure budget improvements are maintained for 2021/2022 including: daytime custodians for elementary schools, portable sinks, hand hygiene stations, FTE to provide learning assistance, noon hour supervisors, continued funding to support outdoor learning and provision of PPE including face masks. The second major item Ms. Baverstock referenced was addressing the \$7.6 million Structural Shortfall. The RTA is recommending the Board use all avenues to advocate for continued funding from the Federal government and additional provincial funding to maintain COVID-19 supports; that the Board also target additional one time ELL funding and that the Board access \$5 million of surplus. The Third area was Classroom Enhancement Funding to ensure all possible funding is accessed. The fourth under Richmond School District's Strategic Plan included spending to support the Board's four priorities. The fifth point noting spending cuts outlined that the RTA encourages the Board to not reduce teaching positions.

Ms. Baverstock concluded acknowledging the significant challenges the Board faces and joint advocacy will be needed to address the many funding shortfalls that are structural and a direct result of the pandemic. The RTA welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with the Board and District on planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Trustees thanked Ms. Baverstock and the RTA for the collaborative approach the RTA takes and works with the Board on as outlined in the brief.

038/2021 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

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

CARRIED

(d) Questions from the Public

A question was emailed with respect to the Human Rights commissioner and in response to Ms. Baverstock's Brief. The Superintendent offered to reach out to Ms. Baverstock and then follow up with the person that asked the question.

4. Executive

The Superintendent of Schools provided an update on COVID-19 reporting that the District had very few exposures over Spring Break and none reported to date in schools the first week back which is good news. The District will continue to monitor numbers and at this date there still has not been a documented case of transmission in schools. The District will be asking all parents and staff to review and recommit to safety protocols to ensure that, as a District, we don't become complacent and continue to provide a safe learning environment for students and a safe working environment for staff.

New masks protocols were issued from the Ministry of Education for students in grades 4-12. The Superintendent referred to the letter sent to employees explaining the revised protocols. A District survey was conducted in elementary schools prior to the mask protocols and the District was encouraged that 87% commitment to mask wearing and the District will be asking parents for their input on this new mandate and to contact their child's principal to discuss these new protocols if they need further information.

Trustees appreciated the update and referred to the health authority links and Ministry website for links and further information if parents need more details.

The Superintendent then presented highlights from schools throughout the District over the past month. Although schools were closed for Spring Break, there were still lots of wonderful activities and events occurring throughout April including: student art displays recently put up at the School Board Office are a very welcoming addition to the building. Thanks was expressed to Catherine Ludwig, District Administrator for Fine Arts who coordinated this project. Westwind students and staff worked together on Comic Con with original stories and characters; Brighthouse created a tower garden to grow vegetables and herbs in less than three square feet of space; Mitchell Elementary created an art project called Fill a Bucket to demonstrate how they could show kindness toward others; a Zen garden was created at Garden City Elementary using sand and river stones in an outdoor space for learning and relaxing; and students at McRoberts brought happiness and cheer to local seniors providing cards and donated flowers to residents of Gilmore Gardens. The Superintendent congratulated students and staff for providing inspiration, creativity and kindness in the community and schools.

Trustees appreciated the presentation and update on the incredible work that is still happening in Richmond schools. Students are resilient and inspiring especially around kindness toward others.

5. Approval of Minutes

(a) Regular meeting of the Board held February 24, 2021

039/2021 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY K. HAMAGUCHI:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Minutes of Wednesday, February 24, 2021 Regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

(b) Special meeting of the Board held March 10, 2021

040/2021 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY N. GOLDSTEIN:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Minutes of Wednesday, March 10, 2021 Special meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

(c) Record of an In-camera meeting of the Board held February 24, 2021 and a record of a Special In-camera meeting held March 10, 2021 was included for information.

6. Business Arising

- (a) Nil.

7. New Business

- (a) Federal Funds Return to Class Funds Allocation – Letter to Ministry of Education

The Chairperson asked the Secretary Treasurer to provide some background prior to the Board’s consideration of a motion. The Secretary Treasurer shared that the District had received approximately \$7.8 million in Federal Safe Return to Class Funds to help support health and safety issues that occurred as a result of the pandemic. The funding was allocated to school districts in two phases, the first received in September for approximately 50% of the funding which was \$3.7 million. There was a hold back at the time of about \$11.1 million and subsequently that hold back was then allocated to school districts and Richmond received approximately \$416,000 of funding. The phase two hold back allocation unlike phase one was issued based on an incremental COVID-19 exposure cases that were reported by school districts. As a result, we received just under \$64,000 and lower than expected. Comparatively with other Districts, Richmond’s allocation was lower.

The Chairperson thanked the Secretary Treasurer and noted that this was added to the agenda in order to suggest that Board write to the Ministry to ask for clarification on how the allocations were determined and the formula they used.

Trustees asked what the discrepancy between what the District received and expected was. The Secretary Treasurer responded that the District would have received a further \$65,000 had the allocation been based on district size and enrolment.

041/2021 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT The Board of Education (Richmond) write to the Ministry of Education to request clarification on the formula used for the allocation.

CARRIED

8. Questions from the Public: Tonight’s Agenda

There were no questions submitted regarding agenda items.

9. Standing Committee Reports

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

A meeting was held on March 8, 2021.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6 pm.

(c) Facilities and Building Committee

Chair: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chair: Norman Goldstein

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held February 3, 2021 were included with the agenda package.

A meeting was held on March 3, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

(d) Finance and Legal Committee

Chair: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chair: Ken Hamaguchi

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held January 20, 2021 were included with the agenda package.

A meeting was held on February 17, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 11 am.

(e) Policy Committee

Chair: Sandra Nixon

Vice Chair: Debbie Tablotney

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION: Policy Section 700 Facilities** – Stakeholder Review Process attached.

042/2021 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

In accordance with Board Policy 204: *Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations*, this RECOMMENDATION to the March 31, 2021 Public meeting of the Board of Education (Richmond) is to place revised Policy Section 700: Facilities - Phase 1 into the stakeholder review process for questions and feedback by May 10, 2021.

CARRIED

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2021 at 11 am.

10. Correspondence

FOR ACTION:

- (a) Correspondence from CUPE Local 716 dated March 25, 2021 regarding the April 28th National Day of Mourning was attached with the agenda package.

043/2021 MOVED BY R. LEE AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

WHEREAS the Board of Education (Richmond) wishes to express support to CUPE Local 716 for their desire to recognize death and injury of workers on the job;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) officially recognize April 28 as the National Day of Recognition for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job with a one-minute cessation of work at 11 am on Wednesday, April 28, 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT flags in the district be lowered to half-mast on that day.

CARRIED

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

(a) Council/Board Liaison Committee

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 9:30 am via Zoom.

12. Adjournment

044/2021 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:

THAT the Regular meeting of Wednesday, March 31, 2021 of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adjourned at 7:59 pm.

CARRIED

S. NIXON,
CHAIRPERSON

R. UYENO,
SECRETARY TREASURER