

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 via Zoom Webinar meeting link, on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Debbie Tablotney, Committee Chairperson
Ken Hamaguchi, Committee Vice-Chairperson
Richard Lee, Trustee Member*
Heather Larson, Trustee Alternate
Rick Ryan, Deputy Superintendent
Roy Uyeno, Secretary Treasurer
Maria Fu, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Laura Buchanan, Executive Director, Human Resources
Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services
Richard Steward, Director of Instruction
Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Tim McCracken, 1st Vice-President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Wennie Walker, Vice President, Richmond Association of School Administrators
Ian Hillman, President, CUPE*
Stacey Robinson, Vice President, CUPE
Roger Corbin, Richmond Management Administrators Professional Staff
Lynne Farquaharson, Past President, Richmond Retired Teachers' Association
Dionne McFie, Past President, Richmond District Parents Association
Wanda Plante, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

*joined the meeting already in progress

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:03 am

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 17, 2021 public meeting were approved as circulated.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

There were no new updates to report.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the provincial budget announcement was released yesterday and noted that there was no new additional on-going funding for education announced. He further advised attendees that the province is facing a significant budget deficit of \$9.7 billion that will take some time to recover from the pandemic and the overall provincial fiscal landscape impact education budgets. The provincial budget announcement also included some Covid contingency funds to be held to support small and medium sized businesses, including healthcare and target struggling hotspot areas in the hospitality and tourism industries. Although an increase to education of \$1.22 billion over the next three years was included in the budget announcement yesterday, much of that funding has already been committed to cover Labour settlements and future enrollment growth. The Secretary Treasurer did note that one-time additional funding for mental health support, early learning childcare and anti-racism initiatives will be made available, although there were no funds targeted to sustain health and safety measures for ongoing pandemic recovery or for inflationary cost pressures. He welcomed the government's commitment to additional capital funding for seismic upgrading of our schools and various capital initiatives such as the school enhancement program allocation, carbon neutral capital program, provincial busing program, playground equipment, the building envelope program and AFG. The Secretary Treasurer advised that as a result of the provincial budget announcement we are not adjusting any of our current projected based budget projections and are still looking at a \$7.2 million budget shortfall for next year.

There were comments and questions regarding continued advocacy for proportionate funding for public schools and ongoing future funding for Covid relief.

5. 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, 2021, in the amount of \$870.00.

6. FEED-U-CATE

The Director of Instruction spoke to his report as included with the agenda package and updated attendees that the majority of school-based Feed-U-Cate initiatives designed to support our students and their families have not been in operation due to Covid related health and safety protocols. As a result, the Richmond Food Security Society has been contracted to produce three lunches per week for 100 students. In addition, six schools also provide a minimum of 3 lunches per week to 50 students and the meals are delivered by community volunteers to 20 schools.

The district has also partnered with Save-On-Foods Terra Nova to provide 100 families in need with food hampers containing perishable and non-perishable food items every two weeks. Unfortunately, due to the high cost (currently \$20,000/month) this program is not slated to continue beyond the current school year.

A new initiative has recently started by providing students in need with enough food for the weekend. Backpack Buddies, a charitable organization, fund this entire program and offers support up to 200 identified students on an ongoing basis. Food is dropped off each Friday at schools for either students or their parents to take home. The district is in the process of engaging community groups to provide sites for drop off and pick up during the summer holidays.

The Director of Instruction concluded that ongoing Feed-U-Cate donations and annual Child Poverty funding initiatives will allow pre pandemic support and programs to continue but cannot maintain the more extensive district-sponsored programs. He further noted that the district will be assisting school and families in accessing community resources.

7. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

(a) There were no minutes provided of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee meeting.

(b) The Cambie Co-ordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:30 pm via Zoom Webinar. The City of Richmond is hosting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson
Finance and Legal Committee