

**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, May 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Debbie Tablotney, Committee Chairperson  
Ken Hamaguchi, Committee Vice-Chairperson  
Richard Lee, Trustee Member  
Roy Uyeno, Secretary Treasurer  
Maria Fu, Assistant Secretary Treasurer  
Laura Buchanan, Executive Director, Human Resources  
Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services  
Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association  
Tim McCracken, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

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

### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was amended approved to add Budget as Item #5.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 21, 2021 public meeting were approved as circulated.

**3. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

There were no new updates to report.

**4. RENTAL INCREASE FOR SCHOOL USE OF FACILITIES FOR 2021/2022**

As required each year, the Executive Director, Facilities Services spoke to the 2021/2022 Facility Rental Rates and provided background and rationale that increases in rental room rates have been recommended and approved based on the Vancouver Consumer Price Index (CPI). He further suggested that in order to stimulate rentals of our school facilities once COVID-19 restrictions are eased, and as the average CPI was only 0.6%, staff are recommending no increase be applied for 2021/2022. The Executive Director, Facilities Services also noted that hourly rental charges for childcare which are reviewed every (3) years will be increasing from \$8.25 to \$8.50 per hour per room. Following the report it was agreed to forward the following recommendation to the Board:

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Board approves a 0% increase to both non-commercial (not-for-profit) and commercial (for profit) facility rental rates in the Schedule of Charges for the Use of School Facilities for 2021/2022.

**5. BUDGET QUESTIONS**

The Secretary Treasurer began by reviewing a very long budget process which began in January with our first Budget Advisory Working Group meeting. He acknowledged the challenges of working through this year's budget process with the district facing a \$7.2 million budget shortfall. The Secretary Treasurer acknowledged and thanked everyone for the significant feedback received which was extremely helpful for our Trustees during budget deliberations and confirmed that the budget package including proposed budget adjustments will be submitted to the Board for approval at their May 26, 2021 meeting.

The CUPE president then advised that the CUPE executive met recently with several MLAs to discuss the budget and was shocked by their comments. Specifically, the MLAs were very clear that they were unwilling to help when our district already had significant surplus and contingency savings in comparison to other districts.

Secretary Treasurer Uyeno responded just in terms of district accumulated surpluses in that this is one-time funds available to the district and is not intended to be used to sustain ongoing expenditures in our budget. He noted that this year we used in excess of \$7 million of one-time accumulated surpluses to balance our budget. At the onset of the pandemic and budget process and in addition to an uncertain future, significant budget reductions were not made as we wanted to ensure our district remained stable. The Secretary Treasurer further noted that in planning for next year and as part of the Strategic Plan, the Board will look at using a portion of accumulated surpluses to balance the budget. With unknown future cost pressures, a strategy to use most of all our accumulated surplus would not be prudent fiscal management and highlighted that a cumulative surplus policy that provides for contingency reserves has been established for all school district which was directed from government.

The Committee Chairperson noted that the Board will also be meeting with MLAs to advocate for post-pandemic funding.

The President of the Richmond Teachers' Association acknowledged that school districts are legislated to submit balanced budgets and noted that although the accumulated surplus in Richmond is not out of line, she has advocated to use more contingency than budgeted. She further commented on the negative impact the international student program is having here and is hopeful that additional classroom enhancement funds are budgeted for secondary schools to operate smaller classes as the problem is greater than she was initially aware of for inspired learners. The President of the Richmond Teachers' Association will continue to advocate that the district use more surplus to bridge the gap and appreciated and supported comments by the CUPE president.

**6. NEXT MEETING DATE – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16 2021**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson  
Finance and Legal Committee