

**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, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairperson
Trustees

Superintendent of Schools
Deputy Superintendent
Secretary Treasurer
Assistant Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent
Executive Director, Facilities Services
Executive Director , Learning Services
Executive Director, Learning & Business Technologies
Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Director, Communications & Marketing
Director of Instruction, Continuing Education
Executive Assistant, Recording Secretary

S. Nixon
D. Tablotney
N. Goldstein
K. Hamaguchi
H. Larson
D. Sargent
R. Lee
S. Robinson
R. Ryan
C. Wang
L. Archer
C. Brautigam
F. Geyer
J. MacMillan
R. Laing
M. Fu
D. Sadler
M. Khoo
C. Cleary

The Chairperson called the meeting to order 7:06 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 Wang - A reminder was made for those who joined the meeting to please ensure that video was turned off and microphones muted to eliminate background noise; there will be two question periods as pertain to the agenda, and 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 Larson** – October is Foster Family Month in BC, which marks the 31st year of celebrating the individuals and families who open their homes to children and youth in care in BC. As a caregiver, they accept a vital role in the lives of the children they care for and an important role in the communities where they live. These caregivers work hard to ensure that the young people in their care are provided with a safe and healthy home and are cared for and nurtured through some of the most difficult and formative years of their lives. Thank you to all Richmond Foster Families.

Trustee Goldstein – Literacy Month, celebrated in September in BC, increases awareness of the importance of literacy, and raises funds to support community-based literacy programs and initiatives across British Columbia. Literacy provides opportunities for all of us to make a substantial contribution to the education, growth, and prosperity of Canada.

Beyond reading and writing, literacy allows us to understand, critically analyze, and create a variety of forms of communication. As a foundation of our society, it is crucial to thriving as an individual and in communities.

The 2021 theme for Literacy Month is “Literacy Connects Us!” Read a book, play a game, write a story, and engage with friends and family in opportunities for literacy in your school and community.

Trustee Sargent – This year we will acknowledge the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. This statutory holiday allows us the opportunity to reflect on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s findings and resulting Calls to Action. We encourage all in our community to reflect on the findings of the Commission, and to read the 94 calls.

Trustee Tablotney – Orange Shirt Day – September 30th (Acknowledged on our schools on September 29, due to the new statutory holiday for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30)

Orange Shirt Day, which began in Williams Lake BC in 2013, honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. It has become a national movement to recognize the survivors of residential schools, honour them and show a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. Acknowledged every year at the end of September, Orange Shirt day opens the door to conversations on all aspects of residential schools and is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of residential schools and the legacy they have left behind.

The Richmond Board of Education is committed to reconciliation and invites all members of our school communities to participate in Orange Shirt Day.

Trustee Hamaguchi – Held annually on the 5th of October since 1994, World Teachers’ Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

One and a half years into the COVID-19 crisis, the 2021 World Teachers’ Day will focus on the support teachers need to fully contribute to the recovery process under the theme “**Teachers at the heart of education recovery**”.

This day is to honour, support and recognize our educators. It is a time to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind.

Trustee Nixon – The Chairperson introduced Cindy Wang, the District’s new Secretary Treasurer who joined the Richmond School District at the end of August. Cindy Wang was the Secretary Treasurer for Elk Island School Division near Edmonton, Alberta. The Chairperson offered a warm welcome on behalf of the Board of Education.

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

The Secretary Treasurer noted that all materials have been made available to the public.

2. Adoption of Agenda

108/2021 MOVED BY R. LEE AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Wednesday, September 22, 2021 Regular agenda of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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

(a) **Presentations**

Nil.

(b) **Special Recognitions**

Nil.

(c) **Briefs**

Foundation Skills Assessment

Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers’ Association presented a brief on The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). She thanked the Board for the opportunity to submit the brief and highlighted the concern over the timing of the FSA early in the year with school starting, and after 18 months of the pandemic. Ms. Baverstock noted the questions asked in the Brief including an update on the two motions carried at the BCSTA 2021 AGM and asked whether the Ministry of Education provided any additional support or targeted funding to address identified literacy and numeracy gaps in schools or, if the Board has advocated for additional supports.

The Chairperson responded to Ms. Baverstock’s questions as outlined and noted that the Board has had discussions and raised concerns around the use of the FSA.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Baverstock for her brief and noted that while there is understanding around the timing of FSAs, the Board also has a clear responsibility to meet the requirements of the Ministry.

(d) **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public pertaining to the agenda. A question regarding Anti-racism will be responded to directly by staff.

4. Executive

The Superintendent reported on the school start up and noted it was very smooth compared to last year. The District welcomed back over 1,500 students who returned to school in person after over 18 months of remote learning.

The Superintendent expressed that the District is aware of parents' concerns and schools are working very hard to make sure that all our health and safety guidelines are being followed and ready to welcome students back safely. With the past challenging year, he also spoke about the need to take time and focus on the social/emotional well-being of students. The Superintendent extended gratitude to the employees of the district who worked so hard in late August and early September to make sure schools are safe and clean and welcoming and ready for students to learn.

Vancouver Coastal Health vaccine clinics are scheduled at four secondary schools: Boyd, MacNeill, Richmond and Burnett. Exposure notification may be updated from the Health Officer and the District is awaiting official notice.

Deputy Superintendent Ryan provided an update on enrolment noting that numbers will change prior to September 30th when the District is required to submit the 1701 data to the Ministry of Education. The information was provided to show enrolment trends, which are very encouraging compared with last year at this time. The total student headcount including both domestic and international enrolment shows an increase. A comprehensive report for enrolment will be presented at the October Board meeting. It should also be noted that the District expanded the virtual program (DL) for this year to include students in Kindergarten through grade nine.

The Executive Director, Learning Services then provided an update on work around the District in preparation for Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th. Schools have a number of recognition events planned that will take place on September 29th honouring both the National day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, which is also recognized at the end of September. The Executive Director encouraged all in the community to reflect on the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by reading the 94 calls to action, consider why they were made and how the community would be stronger if the calls were answered.

The final update was presented by the Superintendent on *Around the District* with updates from the following schools: Dixon Elementary students have been training for their cross country running event on October 14th; Gilmore Elementary – Learn in Nature program where students explore different ways to listen to the needs of nature; at Spul'u'kwuks, grade 6 and 7 students attended a leadership conference at their school, exploring team-building activities, listening to speeches, and expanding their leadership skills; the Terry Fox Run will be held online on September 19th with students across the District taking part in the annual event raising funds and awareness for cancer research.

The Superintendent reported on *Student Vote Canada* where prior to the federal election, over 700,000 students across Canada participated. In Richmond, almost every school and over 6,000 students were involved.

In closing, the Superintendent talked about how students need to develop an understanding of the importance of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Around the District, students reflect through activities such as the creation of a reconciliation quilt made at McNeely Elementary to honour the students from Indigenous communities across Canada. The Superintendent expressed that the District recognizes the obligation of a public school system on the influence and power that we have on the future citizens of our country to make a difference.

5. Approval of Minutes

- (a) Regular meeting of the Board held June 23, 2021

109/2021 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Minutes of Wednesday, June 23, 2021 Regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

- (b) A Record of an In-camera meeting of the Board held June 23, 2021 was included for information.

6. Business Arising

- (a) Nil.

7. New Business

- (a) **Summer Programs Update**

A report and presentation was shared by the Director of Continuing Education. The Director provided background on Richmond Continuing Education that offered a wide range of educational programs for school-age students during the summer. The program has evolved over the years from a focus on Summer School for high school students who need to improve their proficiency in order to pass a course, to Summer Learning where many students can find a program of interest or need.

The Director of Continuing Education noted that there will be a thorough review of all Summer Learning programs to ensure they meet the diverse learning interests and needs of the community.

Trustees thanked the Director for the thoughtful presentation noting what wonderful opportunities there are for students resulting in an amazing sense of belonging for the students in this program.

8. Questions from the Public: Tonight's Agenda

Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association asked a question with regard to the Statement of Operation under the Audit Committee report and the Special Purpose Funds.

Ms. Baverstock noted that unused grants or funds remaining at the end of the year are treated as deferred revenue and asked where those funds are and whether they would be accessible to the Board for this year. The Secretary Treasurer responded that these funds if not spent, are deferred but that the revenue must be spent the following year for the same allocated purpose.

Ms. Baverstock also asked if the Board has planned advocacy for more federal funding or provincial funding to support schools in the ongoing pandemic. The Vice Chair responded that the Board met with MLAs in Richmond and will continue to do so in the coming year. With the newly elected MPs, the Board will take the opportunity to meet and advocate.

9. Standing Committee Reports

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

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year End 2020-2021.

Trustee Sargent, Chair of the Audit Committee noted the exceptional work of the Finance team and how very impressed the Auditors were. The Chair thanked the Assistant Secretary Treasurer and staff. The Auditors noted that the organization was stable, accountable and the District had a clean audit.

The Secretary Treasurer then congratulated the Finance team and PWC Auditors for their hard work. Thanks, were also extended to Mr. Roy Uyeno, former Secretary Treasurer.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), the District's auditors completed their audit of the 2020/2021 financial statements of the Richmond School District. They expressed an unqualified audit opinion that the financial statements are complete, accurate in all material respects and prepared in accordance with accounting requirements under PSAB and *Section 23.1* of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* of the Province of British Columbia.

110/2021 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT the Chair of the Board, the Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign the financial statements.

CARRIED

A meeting was held on September 13, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 10, 2022.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6 pm.

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

A meeting was held on June 2, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

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

A meeting was held on September 22, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 11 am.

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

A meeting was held on June 14, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2021 at 11 am.

10. Correspondence

- (a) Nil.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

- (a) **Council/Board Liaison Committee**

A meeting was held on June 9, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 9:30 am.

12. Adjournment

111/2021 **MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

THAT the Regular meeting of Wednesday, June 23, 2021 of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adjourned at 8:37 pm.

CARRIED

S. NIXON,
CHAIRPERSON

C. WANG,
SECRETARY TREASURER