

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 meeting link, on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Deborah Tablotney, Chairperson
Ken Hamaguchi, Vice-Chairperson
Richard Lee, Trustee Member
Heather Larson, Trustee Alternate
Rick Ryan, Deputy Superintendent
Cindy Wang, Secretary Treasurer
Maria Fu, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Laura Buchanan, Executive Director, Human Resources
Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services/Richmond Project Team
Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Tim Mccracken, 1st Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Ian Hillman, President, CUPE*
Tanya Major, President, Richmond Association of School Administrators
Roger Corbin, Richmond Management Administrators Professional Staff
Andrew Scallion, President, Richmond District Parents Association
Dave Madeira, Vice President, Richmond District Parents Association
Dionne McFie, Immediate Past President, Richmond District Parents Association
Joyce Coronel, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

**Joined the meeting while in progress*

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:02 am

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 19, 2021 public meeting were approved as circulated.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES STAFFING UPDATE

The Executive Director, Human Resources spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. She provided an update on the expenditures for the Foundations of a Healthy Workplace program during the 2020/2021 school year in the total amount of \$124,400, which includes LifeSpeak, Calm App Subscription, and Shingles vaccination programs, among others. She also highlighted the significant increase in employee usage of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) from approximately 1,300 hours of counselling support per year to 2,400 hours for the period of September 2020 to August 2021. The consequent increase in cost was funded by federal funding.

A finalized plan of program offerings for the 2021/2022 school year will be shared in a future Committee meeting after consultation with employee stakeholder groups.

**Ian Hillman, President, CUPE joined the meeting at 11:08 am.*

The President, Richmond Teachers Association expressed the need for Board advocacy for more federal or provincial funding for school restart. Trustees agreed to continue to support the program and advocate for more funding.

Discussion ensued on the details of Health Assessment Services offered to employees.

The Chairperson facilitated the introduction of attendees before proceeding with the next item on the Agenda.

4. TRUSTEES' EXPENSES FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

It was agreed that a **RECOMMENDATION** be forwarded to the October 27, 2021 meeting of the Board:

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 June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$2,368.17.

5. 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS UPDATE

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. She provided a summary and status update on the budget adjustments approved by the Board in the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 budget process. She further advised that due to Covid-19, the majority of the projects that were approved to be completed by June 30, 2021 has been deferred to 2021/2022.

In response to an inquiry from the President, Richmond Teachers Association on whether there will be an opportunity to reallocate funds, the Assistant Secretary Treasurer clarified that reallocation of funds would have to be approved by the Board.

6. 2021 ONE-TIME FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL GRANT

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package which includes a summary of the one-time Safe Return to School funding from the federal and provincial government during the 2020/2021 school year. She noted that the School District has spent all these funds to support the provision of safe learning environment during the pandemic.

7. SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022

The Chairperson highlighted two key messages of the Board's Advocacy Letter to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services:

1. Provincial funding to support COVID recovery in schools
2. Continued investment in seismically safe schools and major capital projects

The Chairperson added that the presentation went well and the School District's concerns were heard by the Committee.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2021 at 11:00 am

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Deborah Tablotney, Chairperson
Finance & Legal Committee