



Richmond Teachers' Association

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March 30, 2022

Board of Education
School District No.38 (Richmond)
7811 Granville Avenue
Richmond, BC V6Y 3E3

Dear Sandra,

Re: Budget Brief

On behalf of the Richmond Teachers' Association, we thank you for the opportunities to submit our feedback for the upcoming 2022/2023 District Budget.

Given the recent announcement of the new Indigenous-Focused Graduation requirement, the RTA is submitting further feedback to support successful implementation in Richmond, as we recognize the Board's commitment to Richmond's Strategic Plan specifically:

Strategic Priority 1 – Inspired Learners

Goal 2 The district fosters resilient and healthy life-long learners.

Goal 3 Indigenous Peoples' history, perspectives, and learning approaches are embedded within district planning and practices.

Strategic Priority 2 – Equity and Inclusion

Goal 1 District learning environments are equitable and inclusive.

Goal 2 The district actively addresses unconscious bias and privilege, systemic discrimination and marginalization based on factors such as ability, colour, cultural identity, gender, gender identity, Indigeneity, political beliefs, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

The RTA recognizes the ongoing support provided to classroom teachers to embed Indigenous Ways of Knowing and First People's Principles into the curriculum and pedagogies. This support is provided with the help of Teacher Consultants, resources and support for professional learning. Indigenous students are also provided support with the assistance of the Indigenous Support Team and the recent additions of Indigenous Gathering Spaces at Cambie and Grauer.

For the successful implementation of the new Indigenous-Focused Graduation requirement and to further our combined commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, the RTA believes more action is needed, including the following budget requests:

- a. One additional Teacher Consultant – Indigenous Curriculum Integration to support teachers (on-going). The new graduation requirement will add to the significant workload that already exists for the current Teacher Consultant, whose portfolio includes supporting teachers across elementary and secondary schools.
Cost 1.0 FTE = \$78,000
- b. FTE to ensure each secondary school, including RVS, can run at least one First People's Course for the 2022/2023 school year.
Cost 0.14 FTE x 11 = 1.54 FTE X \$78,000 ~ \$120,120
- c. FTE to provide at least one block to each secondary school to provide teacher release to plan and support successful implementation for the 2023/2024 school year. The RTA supports a similar model that was used for the successful implementation of Career Life Connections, where additional blocks were added to provide teacher time to coordinate, plan and support schools with the mandatory graduation requirement. Dedicated release time will allow teachers to work in their schools and across the District to begin the necessary work to ensure we can successfully provide all secondary students a deeper understanding of the experiences, cultures and histories of Indigenous People's.
Cost 0.14 FTE x 11 = 1.54 FTE X \$78,000 ~ \$120,120
- d. Additional resources to help teachers infuse Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and First People's Principles into the curriculum, including resources to support the offering of First People's courses in grades 11 to 12 (one-time).

The RTA remains optimistic that the Ministry of Education will incorporate many of these ideas in their implementation plan, but that information will not be available until August 2022, which is too late for the current budget planning cycle. Therefore, the RTA makes these requests for the 2022/2023 budget. Together, we must ensure we build on the excitement this new opportunity provides. Meaningful support for 2022/2023 school year will help build and sustain the energy and excitement across Richmond schools to engage in lasting and meaningful reconciliation and our combined commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and Anti-Racism.

Finally, the RTA requests the Board increase their advocacy for additional funding for the Richmond School District. The recent Ministry of Education budget announcements and continued structural shortfall all speak to the lack of proper funding for Public Education. These Ministry decisions are in complete opposition to the public narrative throughout the pandemic of the extreme importance of schools to the social and emotional development of students and our duty to help develop Educated Citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Baverstock', written in a cursive style.

Liz Baverstock,
President, RTA

cc: Scott Robinson, Superintendent Of Schools
Cindy Wang, Secretary–Treasurer
Tim McCracken, 1st VP, RTA
Steve Wenglowski, 2nd VP, RTA
JW Cho, 3rd VP, RTA