

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, on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Donna Sargent, Chairperson
Ken Hamaguchi, Vice-Chairperson
Norman Goldstein, Trustee Member
Heather Larson, Trustee Alternate
Sandra Nixon, Trustee
Cindy Wang, Secretary Treasurer
Maria Fu, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services
Rav Johal, Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Tim McCracken, 1st Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Stacey Robinson, 2nd Vice President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716
Mike Murray, President, Richmond Association of School Administrators
Jason Leslie, Vice President, Richmond Association of School Administrators*
Roger Corbin, Richmond Management and Professional Staff
Hugo David Madeira, Vice President, Richmond District Parents Association
Dionne McFie, Past President, Richmond District Parents Association
Joyce Coronel, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Regrets:

Laura Buchanan, Executive Director, Human Resources

**Present for a portion of the meeting*

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 16, 2022 public meeting was approved as circulated.

3. COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT

The Chairperson sought feedback from stakeholders whether they prefer to meet in-person or via zoom for the remaining Committee meetings this year. Stakeholder representatives from CUPE, RTA, RMAPS and RDPA expressed their preference to continue with zoom meetings for the remainder of the year. The Chairperson noted their

responses and confirmed that remaining Committee meetings this year will be via Zoom and will be re-assessed in September.

Jason Leslie joined the meeting at 10:07 am.

4. TRUSTEE STIPEND REVIEW

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. She explained that district policy requires a review of trustee stipend before the end of the trustees' term and noted that Richmond School District's trustee stipends appear to be comparable with other school districts of similar size and location.

5. TRUSTEES' EXPENSES FOR THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2022

It was agreed that a **RECOMMENDATION** be forwarded to the April 27, 2022 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 March 31, 2022, in the amount of \$4,877.20.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

The Secretary Treasurer presented a budget update highlighting the 2022/2023 Base Budget, Budget guiding principles, Budget adjustment strategies and Budget facts. She also explained the processes taken by senior team to address the budget shortfall to keep staffing reductions to a minimum.

The Secretary Treasurer pointed out that staffing reductions last year and this year need to be viewed together to compare staffing reductions across different employee groups over two years. With the budget adjustments, a portion of the \$3.9 million shortfall will be addressed, and the remainder of the shortfall will be covered by leveraging the district's unrestricted surplus.

Finally, she encouraged stakeholders to participate in the upcoming Board meeting on April 27 where the Board will have a Committee of the Whole to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input and feedback.

She then responded to questions from attendees on her report, specifically on the financial impact of the recent change to the Employment Standards Act (ESA), which now grants up to five days paid sick days to TTOCs and casual staff. The Chairperson also explained that the changes to the ESA will be subject to further discussion by the Board and will also be taken up in the BCSTA Annual General Meeting on April 22-25. The 2nd

Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association noted that ESA changes can also be brought to the bargaining table to address funding concerns.

Jason Leslie joined the meeting at 10:22 am.

7. FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES

The Director of Instruction, Learning Services spoke to his report as included in the agenda package. He then responded to questions and comments from trustees on his report. Discussion ensued on food security issues of students and the schools' efforts to provide support to families.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that a more detailed report on this agenda item will be brought for further discussion by this Committee in its public meeting in May or June 2022.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2022 at 10:00 am

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Sargent, Chairperson
Finance & Legal Committee