

Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	D. Tablotney
Vice Chairperson	H. Larson
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	K. Hamaguchi
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	A. Wong
Trustee	D. Yang
Acting Superintendent of Schools	R. Ryan
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
Acting Deputy Superintendent	C. Brautigam
Assistant Superintendent	J. MacMillan
Assistant Superintendent	C. Stanger
Executive Director, Human Resources	L. Buchanan
Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office	F. Geyer
Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies	R. Laing
Director of Instruction, Learning Services	R. Johal
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	T. Lee

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

1. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements, Trustees' Updates

(a) Recognition of Visitors

The Chairperson welcomed the gallery to the meeting.

(b) Announcements

Trustee Larson: Tonight, we will be providing stakeholders and our community an opportunity to speak directly to trustees on their budget priorities. We will be using a portion of tonight's Board meeting for a Budget Committee of the Whole. During the Committee of the Whole, we will receive presentations and briefs on the budget or if you have comments or questions, you can email them to boardmeetings@sd38.bc.ca.

I would also encourage you to visit our Budget Process webpage to access information on our budget as well as submit your budget feedback.

Trustee Yang: April 28 is the National Day of Mourning, a day to remember and honour those who have lost their lives or have been injured due to workplace accidents. As a mark of respect, flags are flown at half-mast, and ceremonies are held across the country and around the world.

This day also serves as a reminder for us to renew our commitment to creating safer workplaces for all employees. Let's continue to work together to ensure that every worker returns home safely at the end of their workday.

Trustee Hamaguchi: The Richmond School District recognizes Mental Health Week in Canada, taking place this year between May 1 and 7, 2023. The goal of this week is to increase awareness and learn about tools and strategies available to support mental health and substance use challenges.

During this week, a number of events and learning opportunities have been planned to raise awareness for students, parents, and staff. For example, on May 2, the school district is pleased to offer an evening with Dr. Deborah MacNamara, who will be hosting a virtual session titled "Holding Onto Our Kids in a Digital World."

As well, a number of schools are having information tables set up during the lunch hour with district staff as well as students passionate about mental health and well-being, to provide information regarding available resources and access to support services in Richmond. The Integrated Child & Youth (ICY) team continues to run its regular drop-in for students to discuss mental health, belonging, and community support.

The provincial organization, FamilySmart, is offering events and resources that support conversations and connection between caring adults and young people. There is a virtual presentation led by Dr. Ross Greene on the evening of May 4, as he speaks about how Collaborative and Proactive Solutions can help show kids we care about them. In addition, this year's theme is "I Care About You" for National Child & Youth Mental Health Day on May 7.

These activities, while supporting Mental Health Week, are in keeping with our Board Strategic Plan's goal to foster resilient and healthy life-long learners and are part of ongoing, district-wide supports for all students and staff in supporting mental health.

Trustee Belleza: Join us for an exciting journey through the vibrant and diverse learning environments of Richmond School District, as we celebrate Education Week from April 24 to April 28, 2023.

Throughout the week, families and community members will have the opportunity to explore samples of student learning on our district website, with each day focusing on a specific theme: Connecting to Place, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Exploring Healthy Living and Well-Being, Learning Together, and Sharing our Gifts.

Education Week provides a unique opportunity to showcase the priorities of our board's strategic plan, including inspired learners, equity and inclusion, and a connected learning community. We're excited to highlight the amazing learning experiences taking place in our district as we celebrate Education Week in Richmond.

Trustee Sargent: April is Sikh Heritage month in Canada. It was first officially recognized by the Government of Canada in 2019. Its purpose is to celebrate the contributions of all Sikh-Canadians and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the rich, unique, and diverse heritage of the Sikh faith and culture.

This April is also a month in which several of the faiths represented in our schools are observing religious celebrations. This past month, our schools have recognized Easter, Passover, and Ramadan in a variety of ways to ensure that our students learn and/or are represented in the different faiths and cultures that make up our schools.

May is Asian Heritage Month which is an opportunity for all of our staff and students to learn more about the many contributions of Canadians of Asian descent throughout our history. May is also Canadian Jewish Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the richness of Jewish culture, heritage, and history in Canada. In May, our schools will recognize Asian Heritage Month and Canadian Jewish Heritage Months in a variety of ways to ensure that all our students learn about Asian and Jewish heritage and excellence.

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

The Secretary Treasurer noted all materials had been made available to the public on the district website.

2. Adoption of Agenda

055/2023 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

THAT the Wednesday, April 26, 2023 regular agenda of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) Presentations

Youth Mental Health Advisory Committee

The Director of Instruction, Learning Services acknowledged Mental Health Week is taking place next week and introduced the District Coordinator of Mental Health, Social Emotional Learning and Counselling, Connie Easton, for the presentation. She introduced the first group of students from Burnett Secondary's district mental health group to present and speak to their experiences and projects. She then introduced the second group of students from Cambie Secondary who are part of the Here4Peers Mental Health Literacy Project to

share their experience with the program.

The students responded to questions from trustees and trustees thanked the students for their presentation and for sharing their experiences.

(b) **Special Recognitions**

Nil.

(c) **Briefs**

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Executive

The Acting Superintendent shared a slideshow presentation on events around the district, including the installation of the Homma Elementary rainbow crosswalk, the Loran Scholars Foundation scholarship winner, Gerardo Mejia from Cambie Secondary, the Youth Work in Trades Award winner, recent graduate Michael Martorella, the Blair Elementary annual Hands-on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) sessions for families, and the Steveston-London Secondary Fine Arts Evening held on April 12. Trustees thanked the Acting Superintendent for his report.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

(a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, March 29, 2023 was included for information.

(b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, March 29, 2023

056/2023 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, March 29, 2023, regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

(a) **2023/24 Annual Budget**

057/2023 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) move into a committee of the whole to allow for all members of the public in attendance to have the opportunity to

participate in the discussion on the 2023/24 operating budget and that the Acting Superintendent facilitate the discussion.

CARRIED

The Acting Superintendent assumed the role of Chair and asked the Secretary Treasurer to speak to the Budget Report as attached to the agenda package.

The Secretary Treasurer provided highlights of the 2023/24 Budget process, currently underway, and noted the preliminary three-year base budget is projecting an operating surplus of \$1.5 million based on the budget assumptions and available information. She thanked stakeholders and staff for their input and feedback.

The Acting Superintendent then called on Stakeholders to present their budget briefs to the Board:

1. Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA)

Ms. Baverstock presented highlights from her brief including additional funding to elementary schools to accommodate for new enrollment, adding five full-time equivalents (FTE) to elementary schools, adding new divisions at the beginning of the school year instead of mid-year, and adding additional blocks and divisions in secondary schools.

2. Ian Hillman, President, CUPE 716.

Mr. Hillman presented the following concerns related to the budget proposals: adding a homestay assistant manager and a budget analyst, and reinstating education assistants support, elementary counsel support workers, and educational assistant consultants.

Mr. Hillman responded to questions from trustees regarding counsellor support workers.

The Acting Superintendent turned the Chair over to Trustee Tablotney. Trustee Tablotney assumed the Chair.

058/2023 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) rise and report from the committee of the whole discussion on the 2023/24 operating budget.

CARRIED

059/2023 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY K. HAMAGUCHI:

THAT the Board of Education refer all Stakeholder input and feedback to the budget process.

CARRIED

(b) **Board Approved Bus Riders 2023/24**

The Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office referred to his report as included in the agenda package and provided background noting that it is submitted annually in accordance with Board Policy 522/522-R regarding student transportation in the Richmond School District. He then responded to questions from trustees regarding the recommendation and courtesy riders.

060/2023 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT bus service for those students at schools served by the District's transportation system, for whom safety concerns have been identified, continue for the 2023/24 school year;

AND FURTHER THAT the service be reviewed annually to determine whether the safety concerns are still applicable, and that staff report back to the Board on this issue.

CARRIED

8. New Business

(a) **2023/24 Eligible School Site Proposal**

The Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office provided information on the eligible school site requirements for the District that are incorporated into the Five-Year Capital Plan. He then responded to a question concerning the data in the report and discussion ensued regarding City Centre schools.

061/2023 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approves the 2023/24 Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) through adoption of the 2023/24 ESSP Resolution.

CARRIED

9. Questions from the Public

The Acting Superintendent noted one question was received through the board meeting email account from a member of the public and will be forwarded to the Secretary Treasurer's office for a response.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) **Audit Committee**

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

(b) **Education Committee**

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on February 15, 2023, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, at 6:00 pm.

(c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on March 1, 2023, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Donna Sargent

Vice Chairperson: Rod Belleza

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Trustees Expenses for the Three Months ending March 31, 2023

062/2023 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

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, 2023, in the amount of \$4,185.42.

CARRIED

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on February 15, 2023, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 17, 2023, at 10:00 am.

(e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

- (i) A Notice of Motion for the May 24, 2023 Public Board Meeting regarding Policy 101/101-R: Strategic Planning was attached for information.

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2023, are attached for information. A meeting was held on Monday, April 17, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 15, 2023, at 11:00 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023 at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

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

A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2023, at 9:30 am.

(b) **BCSTA**

BCSTA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 27-30, 2023 at Westin Bayshore, Vancouver. Trustees have been registered.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Nil.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Nil.

13. Adjournment

063/2023 MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, April 26, 2023 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 9:08 pm.

CARRIED

D. TABLOTNEY
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer