

Board of Education

Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Acting Superintendent of Schools
Secretary Treasurer
Acting Deputy Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent
Executive Director, Human Resources
Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office
Director, Communications and Marketing
Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Director of Instruction, Student Services & Data Analysis
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

D. Tablotney
H. Larson
R. Belleza
D. Sargent
A. Wong
D. Yang
R. Ryan
C. Wang
C. Brautigam
J. MacMillan
C. Stanger
L. Buchanan
F. Geyer
D. Sadler
M. Fu
R. Johal
T. Lee

Regrets:

Trustee
Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies

K. Hamaguchi
R. Laing

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Tablotney: As tonight is our final board meeting of the school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our collaborative commitment to advocacy. Over the past year, our board has listened to the voices of our partner groups, dedicated staff, engaged students, and supportive parents/guardians, all with the aim of understanding the needs and priorities of our school community.

Over the past few months, we have actively engaged in numerous discussions and meetings with the Mayor and Council of Richmond, local MLA's, the Select Standing Committee, and our Members of Parliament.

The Board with support from partner groups, directed our advocacy towards the enrollment pressures in the city center, underscoring the urgent need for expansion of existing elementary schools, and new elementary schools that can accommodate our ever-growing student population. Additionally, we emphasized the critical importance of seismic upgrades, Settlement Workers in Schools, and securing the necessary funding to support various ministry initiatives, such as food security, Indigenous education, and anti-racism.

We are proud of the progress made as a board in raising awareness and initiating meaningful discussions with many of the important decision-makers. Our advocacy work has not only shed light on the challenges our district faces but has also opened doors for collaboration and potential partnerships that will benefit our community.

As we look ahead to the coming year, the board is committed to building upon the progress we have made. We remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for the needs of our students, families, staff, and partner groups, ensuring that your voices are heard, and your concerns are addressed.

Thank you all for your dedication and support. Together, we will continue to shape a brighter future for education in the Richmond School District.

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

The Secretary Treasurer noted an additional item has been added to the agenda and posted on the district website – item 12 – “English Language Learner (ELL) Consortium MP Letter Template”. All other materials had been made available to the public on the district website.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Chairperson noted the addition of “English Language Learner (ELL) Consortium MP Letter Template” as item 12 (c).

085/2023 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Wednesday, June 21, 2023 regular agenda of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) Presentations

Nil.

(b) Special Recognitions

Nil.

(c) Briefs

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

A member of the public asked a question regarding education programs and curriculum relating to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI). Assistant MacMillan and Acting Deputy Superintendent provided explanation on the curriculum and information regarding the importance for schools to be inclusive and safe spaces for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Another member of the public made a brief statement regarding SOGI in schools.

5. Executive

The Acting Superintendent shared a slideshow presentation on events around the district, including the first Student Voice Forum, ways Richmond schools are honouring and learning about Indigenous History, culture, traditions, and languages in June for National Indigenous History Month, ways Richmond schools are recognizing Pride Season, and ways the district is raising awareness during Deaf Blind Awareness month in June.

The Acting Superintendent then shared a few final words as this was his last public board meeting as the Acting Superintendent. He thanked the board and the Secretary Treasurer for their support, and the Executive Assistants, senior team, partners, and staff for all their work.

The Chairperson thanked the Acting Superintendent for his support to the board and senior staff in the past few months.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

(a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, May 24, 2023 was included for information.

(b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, May 24, 2023

086/2023 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, May 24, 2023, regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

(a) Strategic Plan Update – Priority 3

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the report from the Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies as included in the agenda package on Strategic Plan Priority 3, Goal 1. She thanked the technology team and digital literacy consultants for their work and the teacher consultants, staff, and students for engaging with technology during the school year. She then thanked the board and the Facilities Services team for the new District Resource Centre at Rideau Park.

The Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office then presented and referred to his report as included in the agenda package on Strategic Plan Priority 3, Goals 2 and 3. He concluded his presentation by thanking his team for their work and the board for their support through the years.

Trustees thanked the Secretary Treasurer and the Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office for the updates.

Trustees inquired regarding security cameras and surveillance and cyber security and threats. The Secretary Treasurer noted she will bring the questions back to the Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies for a response.

The Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office then responded to trustees' questions regarding the climate risk assessment project, EV chargers at schools, natural gas consumption increases, the Teacher-Consultant, Science and Sustainability position, and the five-year Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.

(b) SOGI Advisory Committee Annual Update

The Director of Instruction, Student Services and Data Analytics referred to his report as included in the agenda package. He then responded to trustee's questions regarding student voice opportunities, diverse student representation in the committee, challenges the committee has faced from the parent community, and responses from teacher librarians on updating book bundles. Trustees thanked the committee for their work in the district.

(c) DEI Advisory Committee Annual Update

The Acting Deputy Superintendent referred to her report as included in the agenda package. Trustees thanked her for the work accomplished and inquired about the following:

- If there is student representation in the DEI Advisory Committee;
- The progress with the curriculum opportunity initiatives;

- The progress with adding more Indigenous gathering spaces; and
- If the reporting guidelines for incidents causing harm is resource for both students and staff.

(d) **Annual Charitable Donations Report**

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer referred to her report as included in the agenda package. She concluded her presentation by thanking the donors in the school district. She then responded to questions from trustees' regarding the breakdown of donations by donor category, the balance of donations remaining, if Feed-U-Cate is included in the report, and how donation funds are directed to schools.

(e) **2024/25 Five Year Capital Plan**

The Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office provided information on the proposed project requests under the Major Capital Programs, Minor Capital Programs and Building Envelope Program that are included in the 2024/25 Five Year Capital Plan submission to the Ministry of Education. He then responded to questions from trustees' regarding funding on the Playground Equipment Program and the Carbon Neutral Capital Program.

087/2023 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approve the 2024/25 Five-Year Capital Plan.

CARRIED

8. New Business

Nil.

9. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) **Audit Committee**

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

(b) **Education Committee**

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Alternate Programs Review Report.

088/2023 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Board of Education (Richmond) direct staff to proceed with the recommendations contained in the Alternate Program Review report.

CARRIED

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2023, are attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

- (c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2023, are attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

- (d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Donna Sargent

Vice Chairperson: Rod Belleza

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10:00 am.

- (e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 201 and 201 Bylaw: Board Operations.

089/2023 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the attached revised Policy 201 and 201 Bylaw: Board Operations, in accordance with Board Policy 204: Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations.

CARRIED

- (ii) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 311/311R: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy.

090/2023 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the attached Policy 311/311-R: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, in accordance with Board Policy 204: Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations.

CARRIED

- (iii) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 621/621-R: Financial Planning and Reporting and Policy 631-R Accumulated Operating Surplus and Capital Reserves.

091/2023 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. Sargent:

THAT the Board of Education approve the attached revised Policy 621/621-R Financial Planning and Reporting and Policy 631-R Accumulated Operating Surplus and Capital Reserves, in accordance with Board Policy 204: Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations.

CARRIED

- (iv) The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

(b) **BCSTA**

Nil.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Nil.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food

The Chairperson noted a letter will be sent on behalf of the BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food to MLA's and MP's to advocate for a universal healthy school food program.

(b) For information:

Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (RPRC)

This letter was received in response to the letter and submission from RPRC regarding universal school meal programs.

English Language Learner (ELL) Consortium MP Letter Template

Trustee Yang provided background information regarding the requests in the letter. He then thanked staff and trustees for their work on this matter.

13. Adjournment

The chairperson provided some final words for the Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Office as he is retiring and thanked him and his team for his work in the district over the years.

092/2023 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, June 21, 2023 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 9:31 pm.

CARRIED

D. TABLOTNEY
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer