

Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	H. Larson
Vice Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	D. Tablotney*
Trustee	A. Wong
Trustee	D. Yang
Superintendent of Schools	C. Usih
Deputy Superintendent	R. Ryan
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
Assistant Superintendent	C. Brautigam
Assistant Superintendent	J. MacMillan
Assistant Superintendent	C. Stanger
Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies	R. Laing
Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
Director of Instruction, Student Services & Data Analytics	R. Johal
District Coordinator	T. Lockhart
District Facilitator	Peter Thackwray
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	T. Lee

*Present for a portion of the meeting

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ 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 Hamaguchi: January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this annual day of commemoration, the Richmond School District pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The district is committed to supporting those who identify as being a part of the Jewish faith and will continue to develop educational programs and provide resources to staff and students that help prevent antisemitism and other forms of intolerance.

Trustee Wong: The Richmond School District would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year.

Lunar New Year is a time for families to come together, exchange gifts, and feast on traditional foods. The celebration is steeped in ancient traditions, including lion and dragon dances and the giving of red envelopes.

Lunar New Year is also an opportunity to highlight the many past and current contributions of the East and Southeast Asian communities who have helped make our country better, fairer, and more inclusive. These communities have played a vital role in shaping our diverse cultural landscape and continue to contribute to our economic, social, and political fabric.

Trustee Belleza: Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.

In our district, Black History Month is about teaching, learning, honouring and celebrating Black excellence by highlighting Black people's resilience, innovation, and determination. As we work towards our Strategic Priority of Equity and Inclusion, students and teachers will engage in many learning opportunities that celebrate Black History.

As the month progresses, our schools will share their learning so that the wider community can learn and celebrate together.

Trustee Yang: January 29th is the anniversary date of the attack on Centre culturel islamique de Québec in Sainte-Foy in 2017 – one of the deadliest mass shootings in Canadian history. On this day, the Richmond School District remembers the victims, their families, and the survivors of this attack. The district commits to taking a stand against hate by continuing to develop and offer opportunities for learning to help prevent racism and other forms of religious discrimination.

Trustee Sargent: Briefs regarding the 2024/25 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the February 21, 2024 and March 13, 2024 regular meetings of the Board. Please note that budget updates will be made available on the District's Budget website. All budget feedback will be considered by the Board as part of the budget process which is anticipated to be completed by April 24, 2024.

(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

006/2024 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

THAT the Wednesday, January 24, 2024 regular agenda of the Board of Education be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) **Presentations**

Nil.

(b) **Briefs**

Nil.

(c) **Special Recognition**

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Executive

The Superintendent reflected on the two snow days last week and acknowledged the efforts made by staff to ensure student safety. He expressed appreciation for the dedication and work of the maintenance and operations staff.

The Superintendent then highlighted his meeting with the student leaders at TABLE 38, noting the value of student voices. He introduced Assistant Superintendent MacMillan to present a video, "Amplifying Student Voices – Shaping the Future Together." The video focused on Strategic Priority 5, Goal 3: Our students' voices and perspectives are valued, encouraged, and embedded, and showed how TABLE 38 is designed to activate student voices and provide an inclusive space for students.

Trustees thanked staff for providing students with leadership opportunities.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, December 20, 2023 was included for information.
- (b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, December 20, 2023

007/2024 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY A.WONG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, December 20, 2023, regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

Nil.

8. New Business

(a) **Budget Process**

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. She then highlighted a video presentation on the 2024/25 Budget Consultation Process.

Trustees thanked staff for their work on the budget process and presentation.

(b) **Career Programs**

Ravinder Johal, Director of Instruction, Student Services & Data Analytics introduced Terri Lockhart, District Coordinator and Peter Thackwray, District Facilitator who shared a presentation on the Career Programs offered in the district.

Trustees thanked staff for their presentation and the opportunities provided to students. Staff then responded to trustees' questions regarding the Career Programs offerings.

Trustee Tablotney left the meeting at 8:05 pm.

9. Questions from the Public

Liz Baverstock, President of the Richmond Teachers' Association, inquired about the amended budget process and consultation process and if there are opportunities for surplus funds to be relocated to other areas.

The Secretary Treasurer responded that as enrollment is growing, funding resources are focused on student learning. She also noted the additional expenditures of inflationary costs for supplies and services, the increase of employee benefits, and the operating costs for the relocation of portables in the city centre area.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) **Audit Committee**

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Alice Wong

A meeting was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

(b) **Education Committee**

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm

(c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 2023, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Donna Sargent

Vice Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 10:00 am.

(e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2023, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Monday January 15, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2024, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

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

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2024.

(b) **BCSTA**

BCSTA Provincial Council is scheduled for February 24, 2024 – Trustee representative has been registered. Trustee Yang noted the Annual General Meeting (AGM) motions are due on February 16, 2024, and registration for the AGM will open on February 28, 2024.

(c) **BCPSEA**

BCPSEA AGM is scheduled for January 25, 2024 – Trustee representative has been registered.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Letter from the Mayor in response to the Board’s advocacy letter regarding City Centre school sites.

Discussion ensued regarding the challenge of securing a new city centre school site.

008/2024 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

THAT further to the Mayor’s correspondence dated December 21, 2023, the Board of Education once again write to the Mayor and Councillors to request a meeting.

Trustee Yang provided rationale for the motion. Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

CARRIED

13. Adjournment

009/2024 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, January 24, 2024 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:39 pm.

CARRIED

H. LARSON
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer