

Policy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024 – 11:00 am
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	D. Tablotney
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee Member	R. Belleza
Trustee Alternate	H. Larson
Trustee	A. Wong
Trustee	D. Sargent
Superintendent	C. Usih
Deputy Superintendent	R. Ryan
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
President, Richmond Teachers' Association	L. Baverstock
2 nd Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	F. Marsic
President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716	S. Robinson
President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	G. Fitt
Vice President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Goulas
Chair, Richmond Management and Professional Staff	K. Gibson
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	J. Coronel

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

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. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Approve Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held November 14, 2023 were approved as circulated.

3. Policy 701.2-R: Capital Project Design Review Process

The Deputy Superintendent spoke to his report as included in the agenda package.

The Committee then agreed to forward the following **RECOMMENDATION** to the board:

THAT the Chairperson of the Policy Committee bring forward a Notice of Motion to the Board of Education at its February 21, 2024, public meeting that a recommendation for the board's consideration will be presented at the March 13, 2024, public meeting to approve the minor revisions to Policy 701.2-R: Capital Project Design Review Process.

4. Update on Premier's Announcement: Restriction on Cell Phone Use in BC Schools

The Superintendent explained that the Premier's announcement regarding the restriction on cell phone use in BC schools is part of the province's measures to keep kids safe from online threats. He also clarified that the restriction is not intended as a ban on cellphone use. All school districts in BC are mandated to have policies in place for the start of the 2024/25 school year, with Guidelines from the province anticipated to be released by the end of March.

The President of Richmond Teachers' Association commented that if a teacher is making the decision to restrict cellphone use in the classroom, it won't be frowned upon when there are good pedagogical reasons for such restriction. She looks forward to the guidelines from the Ministry to provide guidance and support to teachers.

A trustee suggested that a wider consultation process be conducted for the district's policy on cellphone use that will include opportunities for parents and the school community to share their feedback. The Superintendent echoed this statement and assured the Committee that partner groups and parents will be involved in the consultation process.

5. Status of Current and Anticipated Items

An updated status document was provided with the agenda package.

6. Next Meeting Date – Monday, April 15, 2024 at 11:00 am.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debbie Tablotney
Chairperson, Policy Committee*