

Finance and Legal Committee

Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 10:00 am
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	D. Sargent
Vice Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Trustee Member	R. Belleza
Trustee Alternate	A. Wong
Superintendent of Schools	C. Usih
Assistant Secretary Treasurer	M. Fu
Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources	C. Stanger
Director of Instruction, Student Services & Data Analytics	R. Johal
Manager, Feeding Futures	I. Lai
President, Richmond Teachers' Association	L. Baverstock*
Representative, Richmond Management and Professional Staff	R. Corbin
Vice President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Goulas
President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716	S. Robinson*
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	T. Lee

*Present for a portion of the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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

The minutes of the public meeting held Wednesday, April 17, 2024, were approved as circulated.

3. Human Resources Update

The Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources spoke to his report as included in the agenda package.

The President, Richmond Teachers' Association expressed her appreciation for the collaborative efforts among staff and partner groups, commended the proactive approach to staffing, and acknowledged the board for moving the budget process timeline from May to April. Additionally, she emphasized the ongoing impact of staffing shortages on schools, particularly in terms of teachers' ability to support students on a daily basis.

The President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716 commented on ongoing efforts with HR to address recruitment challenges and expressed anticipation for the engagement survey results to understand the reasons behind EA availability issues. Additionally, she thanked the board and Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources for their receptiveness to suggestions, with hopes for continued collaboration in addressing these challenges.

Discussion then ensued regarding EA shortages.

4. Feeding Futures Update

The Director of Instruction, Student Services & Data Analytics and Manager, Feeding Futures, presented an overview and update of the Feeding Future Program.

The Manager, Feeding Futures then responded to a question from a trustee regarding the new National School Food Program, while the Director of Instruction, Student Services & Data Analytics responded to inquiries about the program's future and its long-term support for students.

5. Student and Family Affordability Fund Update

The Chairperson noted that due to time constraints in this meeting, agenda item 5 will be postponed until the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 10:00 am.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Donna Sargent
Chairperson, Finance and Legal Committee*