

Policy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 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
Deputy Superintendent	R. Ryan
Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies	R. Laing
President, Richmond Teachers' Association	L. Baverstock
2 nd Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	F. Marsic
President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	G. Fitt
Vice President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Goulas
President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716	S. Robinson
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	J. Coronel

*Present for a portion of the meeting

Regrets:

Superintendent	C. Usih
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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 April 15, 2024 were approved as circulated.

3. Policy 400-R5: Smoking and Alcohol Consumption
Policy 804.1-R: Community Use of District Facilities

The Deputy Superintendent spoke to his report as included in the agenda package. He highlighted that, upon consultation with partner groups, the partner group review process will be extended from one month to two months, for the period of May 23 to July 23, 2024.

The President, Richmond Teachers' Association shared her comments on the interpretation of "district business" as stated in Policy 400-R5. She also proposed to include the phrase "misuse of prescription drugs" in Policy 804.1-R to be consistent with Policy 400-R5.

In response to a suggestion from the President, Richmond Teachers' Association to have a broader review of Policy 804.1-R, the Deputy Superintendent clarified that the current policy revision aims to focus on the urgent need of removing the Superintendent's authority to approve alcohol consumption on district property, with plans to address less urgent concerns in the future.

Finally, the Deputy Superintendent responded to a trustee's inquiry on the interpretation of language in Policy 400-R5 prohibiting consumption of alcohol and cannabis without explicit prohibition of their transfer, purchase or possession (similar to language on illegal drugs).

Following discussion, the Committee then agreed to forward the following **RECOMMENDATION** to the Board:

THAT the Policy Committee recommend to the Board of Education that revised Policy 400-R5: Smoking and Alcohol Consumption, and Policy 804.1-R: Community Use of District Facilities be referred to Partner Group Review Process for the period of May 23 to July 23, 2024.

4. Policy 104: Acceptable Use of Information and Communication Services

The Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies provided an update on the process and actions taken in regard to the Personal Digital Device policy and guidelines which are required by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to be in place by September 2024. He noted that the key focus of the policy and guidelines will be on the acceptable use of these devices to leverage technology to be a tool to enhance learning in a focused classroom rather than a potential hindrance or distraction to learning.

The President, Richmond Teachers' Association emphasized the importance of clear guidelines and consistent implementation for students. The Executive Director, Learning and Business Technologies then responded to a trustee's comment on the inclusive application of the guidelines.

Trustee Larson left the meeting at 11:49 am.

5. Status of Current and Anticipated Items

A Status of Current and Anticipated Items was attached to the agenda package. There were no questions or comments.

6. Next Meeting Date – Monday, June 10, 2024 at 11:00 am.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debbie Tablotney
Chairperson, Policy Committee*