

Policy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2024 – 11:00 am
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	D. Tablotney*
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee Member	R. Belleza
Trustee	A. Wong
Superintendent	C. Usih
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
President, Richmond Teachers' Association	L. Baverstock
1 st Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	S. Wenglowski
2 nd Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	F. Marsic
3 rd Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	J. Cho
President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	N. Widdess
Vice President, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Goulas
President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716	S. Robinson
Chair, Richmond Management and Professional Staff	K. Gibson
President, Richmond District Parents Association	C. Huang
Vice President, Richmond District Parents Association	A. Gong
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	S. Khan

*Present for a portion of the meeting

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

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm 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 June 10, 2024 were approved as circulated.

A trustee requested preliminary feedback on the implementation of the Guidelines on the Acceptable Use of Student and Personal Digital Devices. The Superintendent shared that, in the early days of the school year, there have been no issues with the implementation of the Guidelines.

3. **Policy 203-R/203-G: Trustee Stipend and Expenses**

The Secretary Treasurer presented her report and responded to a trustee's questions regarding private donations to the school district and processes to address trustees potential violations of policy 203-R/203-G.

Following discussion, 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 the September 25, 2024, public meeting that a recommendation for the board's consideration will be presented at the October 23, 2024, public meeting to approve revisions to Policy 203-R and 203-G Trustee Stipend and Expenses.

The Chairperson joined the meeting at 11:11 am.

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

The Superintendent acknowledged the work done by former Deputy Superintendent Rick Ryan in the review of Policy 400-R5 and 804.1-R. He then spoke to his report as included in the agenda package. A trustee suggested to revise language in Policy 804.1-R to require liability insurance instead of accident insurance, to ensure a more comprehensive insurance coverage for groups using district facilities.

The Superintendent then responded to questions from the Vice President of Richmond District Parents Association on the district's measures to prevent vaping and drug use in schools, and how such violations are handled. In addition, the President of Richmond Teachers Association mentioned that there has been no evidence of teachers smoking or vaping in schools.

In response to a question from the Vice President of Richmond District Parents Association, the Superintendent advised that parents who observe inappropriate behaviour on school property should report it to the school administrator, rather than approaching the student directly.

Following discussion, 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 the September 25, 2024, public meeting that a recommendation for the board's consideration will be presented at the October 23, 2024, public meeting to approve revisions to Policy 400-R5: Smoking and Alcohol Consumption and Policy 804.1-R: Community Use of District Facilities.

5. Verbal Update: Policy Refresh to align with DEI checklist (standing item)

The Superintendent informed the Committee that former Deputy Superintendent Rick Ryan will assist in reviewing all district policies to ensure alignment with the DEI policy checklist. A number of these refreshed policies will be presented in each meeting starting in October.

The Superintendent also noted a suggestion from the President of Richmond Teachers Association for a more user-friendly and accessible manner for finding policies on the district website.

6. Status of Current and Anticipated Items

A Status of Current and Anticipated Items was attached to the agenda package. The Superintendent shared that revisions to Policy 102: Diversity and Inclusion will be presented in the Committee meeting in November.

7. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 11:00 am.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David Yang
Vice Chairperson, Policy Committee*