

Education Committee
Public Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 – 6:00 pm
via Zoom

<https://sd38.zoom.us/j/64823887978>

Passcode: 6000

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledges and thanks the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

- 1. Adopt Agenda**
- 2. Approve Minutes**
In-camera minutes from meeting held October 16, 2024 attached.
- 3. French Immersion & International Baccalaureate Student presentation**
Anita Kwon, Principal, David Miller, Teacher and Sophie, Student from Richmond Secondary
Aviva Vaughan, Principal, Virginie Martin, Teacher and Arianna, Student from McRoberts Secondary
- 4. Program Options Review**
Maryam Naser, Assistant Superintendent and Brooke Douglas, Director of Instruction
- 5. Next Meeting Date – January 15, 2024**
- 6. Adjournment**

Education Committee Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 – 6:00 pm
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	H. Larson
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee Member	A. Wong
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
Assistant Superintendent	B. Thompson
Director of Instruction	R. Johal
District Administrator	J. Higo
Teacher Consultant	C. Easton
Teacher Consultant	E. Hsu
Teacher	A. Moss
Student	Chloe
Student	Livia
Student	Ryan
President, CUPE716	S. Robinson
1 st Vice President, CUPE716	N. Williams
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Pikkarainen
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	L. Leung
President, Richmond Teachers' Association	L. Baverstock
3 rd Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	J. Cho
President, Richmond District Parents' Association	C. Huang
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	S. Khan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Approve Minutes

The minutes of the public meeting held Wednesday, September 18, 2024, were approved as circulated.

3. Hugh Boyd Mural Project

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser introduced teacher sponsor Amy Moss and Students from the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club Ryan, Chloe and Livia. They presented the *Together We Thrive* mural project, a collaboration between the Art Class and GSA at Hugh Boyd Secondary which was completed at the end of 2023. The students shared their experience and informed the committee that the mural highlights diversity, equity and inclusivity, and that Hugh Boyd is a safe place for everyone.

Trustees asked the students what the mural means to them. Trustees and stakeholders expressed their gratitude to the students for their work.

4. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Guidelines for Parents

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser introduced Director of Instruction Rav Johal and Teacher Consultants Connie Easton and Ellen Hsu. They provided an overview of Policy 106, 106-R and 106-G: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and through this policy there was a formation of the SOGI Advisory Committee. They informed the committee of the 4 overarching goals of the Advisory committee, which is to support the implementation and understanding of how to grow diversity, equity, and inclusion in the district, and this includes staff and students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+. Further, they discussed what SOGI-inclusive education looks like in the district and emphasized that SOGI is not a separate curriculum but is woven into the curriculum through themes of valuing diversity and respecting differences. Finally, they provided some recent highlights in the district with respect to SOGI, and Rav informed the committee that the SOGI Advisory committee developed a document for parents titled *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI): Information for Parents and Guardians*. The document can be found on the district's website.

Stakeholders asked questions regarding grants for SOGI, and outreach for parents. Trustees informed the committee that the Board of Education issued a statement, on the district's website, reaffirming the Board's work on diversity, equity and inclusion.

5. Continuing Education Review Implementation Plan

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser and District Administrator Jason Higo provided background information on the review, the alignment with the strategic plan, and the recommendation that was approved at the April 2024 Board of Education meeting. They informed the committee that the recommendations focus on 4 key areas: data-informed planning and decision-making, leadership, budget, and Richmond Educational Assistant Program (REAP). From this, an implementation plan has been developed for the 2024/25 school year.

Trustees asked questions regarding program fees, and the assessment required for EAs.

6. Next Meeting Date – November 13, 2024

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Heather Larson
Chairperson, Education Committee*

Report to the Education Committee (Richmond) PUBLIC

Date: November 13, 2024

From: Maryam Naser, Assistant Superintendent & Brooke Douglas, Director of Instruction

Subject: **Program Options Review**

This report is provided to the Board of Education for informational purposes, and no further action is required at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE

- *Strategic Priority 1: Inspired Learners*
Goal 1: Design and offer a variety of learning options to meet the evolving and diverse needs of learners
- *Strategic Priority 2: Equity and Inclusion*
Goal 1: District learning environments are equitable and inclusive

BACKGROUND

A review of the district's program options was conducted in the 2023/24 school year by external consultant, Nancy Brennan, a retired Assistant Superintendent with considerable experience overseeing choice programs. The key areas of focus were the district's ability to support the diversity of student needs through existing and possible new programs, an assessment of space utilization, geographic equity, current and future staffing and resource needs, and enrollment trends. The following programs were included in the review:

- Early (EFI) and late French Immersion (LFI)
- Montessori
- Incentive Outdoor Academy at MacNeill
- International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
- Middle Years Program (MYP)

The review process was comprehensive and included site visits, interviews, surveys, focus groups, and an analysis of enrolment and achievement data. Each program was considered in light of its strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. The consultant commended school and district staff for their dedication to student success and their pride in their schools and programs. It was noted that the district's programs options are highly sought after, often receiving more applications than available spaces, especially within elementary programs. Richmond families were acknowledged for their active support and engagement in choice programs, and the clarity of the application process was noted as being well understood by families.

The information below provides a summary of the considerations offered by the consultant as part of the Program Options review. Prior to moving forward with recommendations, additional review and consultation with partner groups will be important.

1. Communication

- a. Provide families easily accessible information about program philosophy, structure, and expectations.
- b. Ensure equal access to information about all program options available within the district.
- c. Whenever possible, place French-speaking administrators in French Immersion schools.
- d. Increase the prominence of French language within French Immersion schools.

2. Supporting Student Transitions (Secondary)

- a. Investigate the benefits of moving to a standardized IB timetable.
- b. Consider the merits of a two-year Incentive Outdoor Academy program.
- c. Evaluate the benefits of co-locating the MYP and IB Programs after further review and consultation with students and partner groups.

3. Professional Learning Opportunities/Staffing

- a. Increase collaboration opportunities for staff engaged in similar program options.
- b. In light of the fact that BC Teacher Education Programs do not offer Montessori training, assess the district's on-going capacity to sustain a robust program in the future.
- c. Continue recruitment efforts for French speaking teachers.

4. Equitable allocation of resources

- a. As part of the Long-Range Facilities Plan, assess the location of elementary and secondary French Immersion schools for geographic balance and potential program amalgamation.
- b. Explore the possibility of creating one or two single track schools as part of the Long-Range Facilities Plan.
- c. Review and adjust current class size disparities between choice and neighbourhood programs.
- d. Regularly review and ensure the fiscal prudence of choice program costs.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations outlined in the Program Options Review offered valuable insights for ensuring the continuous success of the district's choice program offerings. Careful consideration of these recommendations along with further review and consultation will enhance the district's ability to offer robust choice programs aligned with current community interests and needs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maryam Naser, Assistant Superintendent
Brooke Douglas, Director of Instruction