

Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	H. Larson
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	D. Tablotney
Trustee	A. Wong
Superintendent of Schools	C. Usih
Secretary Treasurer	C. Wang
Assistant Superintendent	C. Brautigam
Assistant Superintendent	R. Laing
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
Assistant Superintendent	B. Thompson
Executive Director, Human Resources	T. Major
Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	T. Lee

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

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. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements, Trustees' Updates

(a) Recognition of Visitors

Nil.

(b) Announcements

Trustee Larson: Briefs regarding the 2025/26 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the January 22, 2025 regular meeting of the Board, as well as at the February 19, 2025 and March 12, 2025 regular meetings of the Board.

Please note that budget updates will be made available on the District's Budget website. All budget feedback will be considered by the Board as part of the budget process which is anticipated to be completed by April 23, 2025.

(c) Any materials not included in packages available to the public

The Secretary Treasurer noted all materials had been made available to the public on the district website.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Prior to adoption of the agenda, Trustee Tablotney congratulated Trustee Hamaguchi and Trustee Yang on their appointments as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the board, respectively. She also expressed gratitude to Trustee Larson, the past Chairperson, for her leadership and contributions to the board during the previous year.

The Chairperson proposed to add "Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA) Statement of Support for SOGI" as Item 12 (b) under Correspondence.

184/2024 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED D. YANG:

THAT the Wednesday, December 11, 2024 regular agenda of the Board of Education be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) Presentations

The Chairperson introduced two classes from Blair Elementary, Division 5, a Grade 3/4 class, and Division 6, a Grade 2/3 class, to perform three songs – "Little Black Dog," "Child of the World," and "Hot Chocolate."

Trustees and the Superintendent expressed their gratitude to the students for their performance and to the staff for their efforts in organizing the performance.

(b) Briefs

Nil.

(c) Special Recognition

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Executive

The Superintendent expressed gratitude to the Richmond community, families, education partners, and staff for their collaboration and support for students throughout the year. He thanked trustees for their advocacy on behalf of students and families and acknowledged progress on the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which would be discussed later in the agenda. Looking ahead to 2025, the Superintendent emphasized the significant undertaking of developing a new Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 and engaging with the Richmond community throughout the process. He concluded by wishing everyone a happy holiday season.

Assistant Superintendent Naser then introduced Mitchell Elementary School to share their numeracy work, which aligns with Strategic Priority 1 – Inspired Learners. Director of Instruction Brooke Douglas then introduced the educators and students from Mitchell Elementary and their numeracy inquiry project. The students engaged in a numeracy activity and shared math games with trustees, allowing them to participate and experience the learning firsthand.

Trustees then asked the students various questions, expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn the games, and extended gratitude to the students, staff, and parents for their hard work and support.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, November 20, 2024 was included for information.
- (b) Organizational meeting of the board held Wednesday, November 20, 2024

185/2024 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Organizational Meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

- (c) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, November 20, 2024

186/2024 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, November 20, 2024, regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

- (d) A record of an in-camera special meeting of the board held Thursday, December 5, 2024 was included for information.

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

(a) Strategic Plan – Quarterly Update Strategic Priority 1 & 2

The Assistant Superintendents presented their report on Strategic Priorities 1 and 2, along with examples of actions taken within the Strategic Priorities to support each goal.

Trustees expressed appreciation to staff for their work. Staff then responded to various questions from trustees regarding the two strategic priorities.

The Superintendent commended the staff's dedication and collaboration with education partner groups.

8. New Business

Nil.

9. Questions from the Public

Liz Baverstock, President, RTA emphasized the importance of collaboration as education partners. She referenced the "Statement from the Board of Education and Superintendent: Support for SOGI" and inquired whether the board and partner groups could issue a joint statement, as outlined in the RTA letter, "Statement of Support for SOGI".

Trustees clarified that the letter of support from the Board Chairperson and Superintendent was issued on behalf of the entire board. The Chairperson then noted that the RTA letter would be referred to staff.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) Audit Committee

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Rod Belleza

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

(b) Education Committee

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

(c) Facilities and Building Committee

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on November 6, 2024, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

- (d) **Finance and Legal Committee**
Chairperson: Donna Sargent
Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:00 am.

- (e) **Policy Committee**
Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney
Vice Chairperson: David Yang

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 101/101-R: Strategic Planning

The Committee Chairperson spoke to the report as included in the agenda package and responded to questions from trustees regarding the revisions.

187/2024 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Board of Education approve the attached revised **Policy 101/101-R: Strategic Planning**, in accordance with Board Policy 204: *Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations*.

CARRIED

- (ii) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 102: Diversity and Inclusion

The Committee Chairperson spoke to the report as included in the agenda package.

188/2024 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Education that revised **Policy 102: Diversity and Inclusion** be referred to Partner Group Review Process for the period of December 12, 2024 to February 28, 2025.

CARRIED

- (iii) Minutes of the meeting held on November 12, 2024, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Monday, December 2, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

- (a) **Council/Board Liaison Committee**

The next meeting will be held on January 29, 2025 at 9:30 am.

(b) **BCSTA**

Trustee Academy was held on November 21-23, 2024 at the Westin Bayshore, Vancouver. Trustee Larson highlighted the learning and seminars from the Trustee Academy, noting that the event was well organized.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Annual General Meeting is scheduled for January 30-31, 2025 – Trustee Representative has been registered.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA) Statement of Support for SOGI

The Chairperson noted that the letter has been posted on the district website and will be referred to staff.

Trustees expressed gratitude to RTA for the letter and emphasized the importance of ensuring that all communities feel respected, safe, and that spaces remain inclusive.

189/2024 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education refer the Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA) Statement of Support for SOGI to staff.

CARRIED

(b) For information:

Nil.

13. Adjournment

As this is the final board meeting of the calendar year, trustees shared their comments and extended holiday wishes.

Chairperson: As we approach the winter break, the Board of Education wishes to extend its warmest wishes to our students, families and staff for a peaceful and joyous winter holiday season.

We are deeply fortunate to have such dedicated and passionate students, supportive families, and exceptional staff who contribute to the vibrancy of our educational community. May this holiday season bring you all the joy, relaxation, and quality time spent with loved ones that you deserve.

190/2024 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, December 11, 2024 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:44 pm.

CARRIED

K. HAMAGUCHI
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer