

Education Committee Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – 6:00 pm
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	H. Larson
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee Member	A. Wong
Superintendent	C. Usih
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
Assistant Superintendent	R. Laing
Director of Instruction	W. Walker
District Administrator	L. Chau
Teacher Consultant	A. Ridley
Teacher Consultant	K. Gamble
Teacher Consultant	K. Johnson
President, CUPE716	S. Robinson
1 st Vice President, CUPE716	N. Williams
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Pikkarainen
3 rd Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	J. Cho
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	L. Leung
President, Richmond District Parents' Association	C. Huang
Representative, Richmond Management and Professional Staff	S. Glanzmann
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

Chairperson Heather Larson informed the committee that the order of the agenda items will be revised. Indigenous Education will be presented first, followed by Personal Digital Devices.

The agenda was adopted as revised.

2. Approve Minutes

The minutes of the public meeting held Wednesday, June 12, 2024, were approved as circulated.

3. Indigenous Education

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser acknowledged September 30 will be the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She introduced District Administrator Linda Chau and teacher consultants Allie Ridley, Kelly Johnson and Karla Gamble. They delivered a presentation which around Indigenous Education. Allie highlighted land-based pedagogy in early learning and the focus around place consciousness. Kelly discussed Indigenous perspectives through resources accessible in the library commons and the district resources centre, and ensuring the alignment with the districts strategic plan and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Karla discussed the Indigenous-focused graduation requirements for all students, the coursework included, and the alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

Trustees asked questions regarding expanding the accessibility of learning resources within schools and between schools. Stakeholders asked questions regarding wait time and funding for the resource kits. Trustees and stakeholders expressed gratitude to staff for their work.

4. Personal Digital Devices – Policy and Guidelines

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser introduced Assistant Superintendent Rob Laing and Director of Instruction Wennie Walker. They provided an overview of the recent mandate from the Ministry of Education to include restrictions on students' personal digital devices. They referred to the attached report on Personal Digital Devices – Policy and Guidelines and delivered a presentation which informs on the district's process in updating the Codes of Conduct to include restrictions on students' personal digital devices, the creation of the policy guidelines, and the implementation of the policy and guidelines. Policy 105 and 104-G, which can be found on the districts website, was passed at the Board meeting on June 19, 2024.

Trustees asked questions regarding challenges students might face with the policy, and accommodations for students. Stakeholders asked questions on the use of personal digital devices on school-site with regards to restrictions to school WIFI accessibility and websites. Trustees and stakeholders expressed their gratitude to staff for their work.

5. Next Meeting Date – October 16, 2024

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Heather Larson
Chairperson, Education Committee*