

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 hə́nqəmíə́m 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*