

Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 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 7:04 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: February 26 is Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day began in 2007 when a student in Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. It has since been recognized annually as a day to stand against bullying and to be advocates for greater acceptance, respect, and inclusion for all. This year's theme, Let Kindness Grow, is about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. The Board's Strategic Plan Priority

2, Equity and Inclusion, outlines our commitment to ensure that all of our students, families, and staff feel welcomed, are treated respectfully, and have a sense of belonging. Let's work together to sprinkle acts of kindness and plant seeds of empathy and compassion throughout our community on this day and all year long.

Trustee Wong: Briefs regarding the 2025/26 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the March 12, 2025 and April 23, 2025 regular meeting 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 May 21, 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

The Chairperson proposed adding a record of the in-camera special meeting of the board, held Tuesday, February 18, 2025, as Item 6 (c).

030/2025 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED D. YANG:

THAT the Wednesday, February 19, 2025 regular agenda of the Board of Education be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) **Presentations**

Nil.

(b) **Briefs**

Nil.

(c) **Special Recognition**

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Executive

The Superintendent highlighted the rapid progression of the 2024/25 school year and expressed pride in the collaborative efforts of staff, families, and educational partners in supporting the district's success. He then provided an update on the transitions of the JustB4 and Colts Programs and reviewed the reports included in the agenda package.

The Superintendent announced the launch of the engagement process for the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, inviting input from students, families, staff, and the community through an online survey and the public open houses, with more details are available on the district's website.

The Superintendent then invited Assistant Superintendent Laing to introduce students and staff from Thompson Elementary School, who shared how they are implementing the First Peoples Principles of Learning through intentional circle gatherings. This supports their focus on respect, inclusivity, belonging, and student self-regulation and goal setting. This initiative supports Strategic Plan Priority 1 – Inspired Learners, Priority 2 – Equity and Inclusion, and Priority 5 – A Connected Learning Community. They also connected the initiative to Pink Shirt Day on February 26 and invited the trustees, Superintendent, and Secretary Treasurer to join the circle.

Trustees thanked the students for their presentation. Students and staff then answered various questions from trustees.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, January 22, 2025 was included for information.
- (b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, January 22, 2025

031/2025 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday January 22, 2025 regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

- (c) A record of an in-camera special meeting of the board held Tuesday, February 18, 2025 was included for information.

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

- (a) **2024/25 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw – Three Readings**

The Secretary Treasurer presented highlights from the report attached to the agenda package, noting that the Board is required to approve the 2024/25 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$376,372,750 and submit it to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

The Secretary Treasurer then responded to various trustees' questions regarding the Integrated Child & Youth Team (ICY) and Language Instruction for Newcomer to Canada (LINC) programs, and transfer of funds to Local Capital. A discussion followed on the importance of the LINC program and the need to advocate for its continuation.

There was unanimous consensus that three readings of the 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw take place.

The Chairperson then read the first reading of the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in full:

AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW

A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND) (called the "Board") to adopt the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024/2025 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

1. The Board has complied with the provisions of the *Act*, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry of Education and Child Care Policies respecting the Amended Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 38 (Richmond) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2024/2025.
3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2024/2025 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$376,372,750 for the 2024/2025 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the *Act*.
4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

032/2025 FIRST READING MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

CARRIED

The Chairperson then read the second reading of the bylaw in summary:

The Amended Annual Budget Bylaw has been prepared in accordance with the *School Act*, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry policies. The total budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year amounts to \$376,372,750. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

033/2025 SECOND READING MOVED BY A. WONG AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

CARRIED

The Chairperson then read the third reading of the bylaw in summary:

The Amended Annual Budget Bylaw has been prepared in accordance with the *School Act*, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry policies. The total budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year amounts to \$376,372,750. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

034/2025 THIRD AND FINAL READING MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

CARRIED

The 2024/25 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw having been read a first, second and third time, is passed and adopted this 19th day of February 2025.

8. New Business

(a) Revised 2025/26 Annual Budget Timeline

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. Trustees expressed their appreciation to staff for promptly revising the timeline.

035/2025 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

THAT the Board of Education approve the revised 2025/26 Annual Budget timeline as presented in this report.

CARRIED

9. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

10. Standing Committee Reports

(a) Audit Committee

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Rod Belleza

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

(b) Education Committee

Chairperson: Heather Larson

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

The Committee Chairperson noted the informative meeting on AI and its benefits for educational opportunities.

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on January 15, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday February 12, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

(c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

The Committee Chairperson noted that the committee welcomed and congratulated Jonathan Ho, the new Director of the Richmond Project Team.

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday February 5, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Donna Sargent

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on January 15, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 10:00 am.

(e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney

Vice Chairperson: David Yang

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 103: Collaboration and Community, Policy 103-R (A): Foundations for Learning, and Policy 103-R (B): Complaints and Appeals by Staff

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

036/2025 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve minor revisions to ***Policy 103: Collaboration and Community, Policy 103-R (A): Foundations for Learning, and Policy 103-R (B): Complaints and Appeals by Staff***, in accordance with Board Policy 204: Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations.

CARRIED

- (ii) A Notice of Motion for the March 12, 2025 Public Board meeting regarding Policy 105/105-R District Code of Conduct was attached for information.

- (iii) Minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Monday, February 10, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2025, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

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

A meeting was held on January 29, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025 at 9:30 am.

(b) **BCSTA**

The Provincial Council meeting will be held on February 22, 2025.

(c) **BCPSEA**

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 30-31, 2025 and Trustee Tablotney provided highlights from the meeting.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Nil.

13. Adjournment

037/2025 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY R. BELLEZA:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, February 19, 2025 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:16 pm.

CARRIED

K. HAMAGUCHI
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer