

## Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 7:00 pm**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom and via Zoom**

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**Present:**

Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Vice Chairperson	D. Yang
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	H. Larson
Trustee	D. Tablotney
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

**Regrets:**

Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	A. Wong

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Yang:** Earth Day, observed annually on April 22, is a global event dedicated to environmental protection. Since its inception in 1970, it has grown into a worldwide movement advocating for a healthier, more sustainable planet. The 2025 theme, "Our Power,

Our Planet,” highlights the connection between climate action and clean energy, emphasizing the role of individuals and communities in driving meaningful environmental change.

Across our district, schools will participate in a variety of classroom and school-wide activities to mark Earth Day. Many Green Teams, led by students, are spearheading environmental initiatives that promote sustainability. Anderson Elementary is hosting a two-day celebration at Garden City Park, bringing together community partners and educators to connect students with nature through the Miyawaki Pocket Forest and place-based learning experiences.

Earth Day aligns with Strategic Plan Priority One: Inspired Learners, emphasizing student engagement in global citizenship and environmental responsibility. Beyond April 22, our schools continue to foster environmental awareness and action throughout the year, demonstrating our commitment to a sustainable future—today and every day.

**Trustee Belleza:** Briefs regarding the 2025/26 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the 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.

**Trustee Larson:** April is Sikh Heritage Month in Canada, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, culture, and contributions of Sikh Canadians. Sikh values of equality, service, and justice have positively shaped our communities and schools. This month provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Sikh heritage and foster inclusivity and respect for all. We extend our appreciation to Sikh students, staff, and families for their invaluable contributions to our district. Let us all take this time to learn, reflect, and celebrate the vibrant Sikh community.

**(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**

**043/2025 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED R. BELLEZA:**

**THAT** the Wednesday, March 12, 2025 regular agenda of the Board of Education be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition**

**(a) Presentations**

Nil.

(b) **Briefs**

Nil.

(c) **Special Recognition**

Nil.

**4. Questions from the Public**

The President of the Richmond Teachers' Association requested to present a brief during item 9 on the agenda, the second opportunity for "Questions from the Public."

**5. Executive**

The Superintendent highlighted the following:

- The school year is progressing quickly, with this being the last week before spring break.
- An update on the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan engagement process, noting that feedback has been received and commending education partner groups for their input. He also mentioned that community public open houses will be held in April."

Assistant Superintendent Brautigam introduced secondary students and district staff to share information about Student Voice initiatives, which align with Strategic Priority 5 – A Connected Learning Community. They highlighted that the key focus for this year is "Belonging" and presented on three initiatives that reflect this focus: the President's Council, TABLE 38, and the Student Voice Forum. They also shared a recap video of the Student Voice Forum.

Trustees thanked the students for their presentation, and the students responded to various questions from the trustees.

**6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings**

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, February 19, 2025 was included for information.
- (b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, February 19, 2025

**044/2025 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday February 19, 2025 regular meeting as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes**

### **(a) Strategic Plan – Quarterly Update Strategic Priority 4 and 5**

The Executive Director, Human Resources spoke to her report as included in the agenda package. She highlighted Strategic Priority 4 – A Progressive Workplace. The Director of Communications and Marketing and Assistant Superintendent Brautigam then highlighted Strategic Priority 5 – A Connected Learning Community. Trustees thanked staff for their work and staff then responded to trustees' questions regarding the two strategic priorities.

## **8. New Business**

### **(a) Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP)**

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package and acknowledged the work of the Manager of Facilities Planning and Assistant Manager of Planning in developing the LRFP.

Trustees expressed appreciation to the planning staff, partner groups, and the public who provided feedback. A discussion followed, highlighting key areas of focus in the LRFP.

**045/2025 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:**

**THAT** the Board of Education approve the 2025 Long Range Facilities Plan as presented in the attachment to this report.

**CARRIED**

## **9. Questions from the Public**

A budget brief was presented by Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association. Ms. Baverstock highlighted the focuses in her Budget Brief including continued support for recruitment and retention initiatives, literacy and numeracy programs in both elementary and secondary schools, the continuation and expansion of the Indigenous Graduation Coach pilot, closely monitoring inflationary pressures on consumable and learning resources, providing FTE support for small secondary schools, maintaining support for Indigenous-focused graduation courses and First People's principles of learning, addressing overcrowded elementary schools, and continuing support for sustainability and climate action projects.

The President, Richmond District Parent's Association raised a parent concern regarding school boundaries. The Chairperson and Superintendent then provided information on the district complaints and concerns process.

## **10. Standing Committee Reports**

### **(a) Audit Committee**

*Chairperson: David Yang*

*Vice Chairperson: Rod Belleza*

A meeting was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

(b) **Education Committee**

*Chairperson: Heather Larson*

*Vice Chairperson: David Yang*

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*

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 2025, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday March 5, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

*Chairperson: Donna Sargent*

*Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney*

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 105/105-R District Code of Conduct

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

**046/2025      MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:**

**THAT** the Board of Education approve minor revisions to ***Policy 105/105-R: District Code of Conduct***, in accordance with Board Policy 204: *Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations*.

**CARRIED**

(ii) 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**

Nil.

(b) **BCSTA**

The Provincial Council meeting was held on February 22, 2025. BCSTA AGM will be held on April 24-26, 2025 – Trustees have been registered.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Nil.

**12. Correspondence**

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Nil.

**13. Adjournment**

**047/2025 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the regular meeting of Wednesday, March 12, 2025 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 9:21 pm.

**CARRIED**

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K. HAMAGUCHI  
Chairperson

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C. WANG  
Secretary Treasurer