

Education Committee Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 6:00 pm
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	H. Larson
Vice-Chairperson	D. Yang
Alternate Member	A. Wong
Trustee	K. Hamaguchi
Superintendent	C. Usih
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
District Administrator	L. Chau
District Administrator	C. Jule
Administrator	L. Scharf
Teacher	B. Milks
Teacher	K. Naso
Student	Elena
Student	Ayden
Alumni Student	Lucie
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Pikkarainen
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	L. Leung
President, Richmond Teachers' Association	L. Baverstock
Vice-President, CUPE716	N. Williams
President, Richmond District Parents' Association	C. Huang
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	S. Khan

Absent:

Trustee	D. Sargent
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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Chairperson Larson acknowledged that September 30th marks Orange Shirt Day, a time for us to reflect on the experiences of Indigenous children in residential schools, to commit to reconciliation and creating learning environments that honor all students. She stated that September is also Literacy Month in British Columbia. This initiative raises awareness about the importance of literacy and supports community-based literacy programs across the province. Throughout the month, funds are raised to strengthen opportunities for individuals and families to access literacy supports and resources.

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. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Approve Minutes

The minutes of the public meeting held Wednesday, June 11, 2025, were approved as circulated.

3. Learning Services - Curriculum and Assessment

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser introduced District Administrator Linda Chau, who provided a presentation regarding curriculum updates and informed the committee that the Ministry of Education has made some recent additions to the curriculum. The District Administrator provided an overview of literacy screening assessments, information on how the Learning Services Department will be supporting the schools this year with curriculum and assessment, along with new Ministry additions and directives.

Trustees inquired about the change to the Socials-10 curriculum and inquiry grants, and they expressed their gratitude to staff for their support and work.

Partner groups expressed appreciation to the on-going work of staff in the district.

4. Overview of Arts Education in Richmond School District

Assistant Superintendent Maryam Naser introduced District Administrator Catherine Jule. She was joined by Vice-Principal Leah Scharf of Brighthouse Elementary, Teacher Bryan Milks of DRC, Teacher Kristian Naso and students from McRoberts Secondary School; together they presented an overview of Arts Education the Richmond school district.

District Administrator Catherine Jule provided an overview of the BC Fine Arts Education Curriculum and showcased some of the art projects throughout the district.

Band Teacher Bryan Milks, from DRC, provided highlights of the elementary band program and band instrument lending program in the Richmond School District. He also provided the positive impact of the program by sharing a student experience.

Music Teacher Kristian Naso, students and alumni, from McRoberts Secondary shared some of the experiences and successes of the music program, the opportunities provided within the district and the opportunities the music program has provided students in post-secondary.

Vice-Principal Scharf, of Brighthouse Elementary, presented highlights of student accomplishments, including the Cargo to Canva project, and the lasting impact these experiences have on children.

Trustees expressed appreciation to staff and students on their presentation and work in the arts education department. Questions regarding instrument collection – elaboration on the process of instrument replacement were addressed.

Partner groups expressed their appreciation to staff and students for the presentation and their on-going work with arts, music and learning.

5. Next Meeting Date – October 15, 2025 at 6:00pm.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Larson

Chairperson, Education Committee