

**Board of Education**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 7:00 pm**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom and via Zoom**

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**Present:**

Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Vice Chairperson	H. Larson
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	D. Tablotney
Trustee	A. Wong
Trustee	D. Yang
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 7:05 pm.

The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

Prior to the items on the agenda, the Chairperson shared a message with the community of Tumbler Ridge and led a moment of silence.

**1. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements, Trustees' Updates**

**(a) Recognition of Visitors**

Nil.

**(b) Announcements**

**Trustee Sargent:** Briefs regarding the 2026/27 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the March 11, 2026 and April 22, 2026 regular meetings 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 20, 2026.

**Trustee Larson:** February 25 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, Sprinkle Kindness, reminds us that small acts of kindness can have a big impact. The artwork shows a child sharing an umbrella with friends as hearts fall like rain from the sky. The Board's Strategic Plan Priority 2, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, outlines our commitment to promote inclusive school environments where all students develop a strong sense of personal identity, feel safe and have a deep sense of belonging. Let's work together to sprinkle acts of kindness and grow empathy and compassion throughout our community on this day and all year long.

(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**

Trustee Sargent proposed adding the letter from the Ministry of Education and Child Care dated February 18, 2026 to the agenda. The Chairperson noted the addition as item 12 (b) under Correspondence.

**027/2026 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED A. WONG:**

**THAT** the Wednesday, February 18, 2026 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

The Secretary Treasurer responded to a question from a representative of the Richmond District Parents Association (RDPA) regarding the opportunity to present feedback on the budget process.

#### 5. Executive

The Superintendent highlighted student achievements and learning opportunities across the district, thanked staff and volunteers for their contributions, and reaffirmed the district's commitment to safe, inclusive environments for all learners. He also noted the recent launch of the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and the district's continued focus on student success.

#### 6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

- (a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, January 21, 2026 was included for information.
- (b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**028/2026 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:**

**THAT** the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, January 21, 2026 regular meeting as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### 7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

- (a) **RECOMMENDATION – School Traffic Safety**

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package.

**Main Motion**

**029/2026 MOVED BY A. WONG AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:**

**THAT** the Board of Education direct staff to continue working with schools to implement traffic safety measures identified through the recent traffic safety study engagement.

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Board direct staff to continue working with partner organizations, including the City of Richmond, the RCMP and the School Traffic Safety Committee, in support of coordinated traffic enhancement initiatives around school zones.

Trustees thanked the Secretary Treasurer and staff for the report. The Secretary Treasurer then responded to questions from trustees on proposed traffic safety measures, potential budgetary implications, and ongoing collaboration with City staff. Discussion continued

regarding education, behaviour, enforcement, and volunteer involvement. Trustees emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration and reporting on school traffic safety initiatives.

### **Amendment**

**030/2026 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:**

**THAT** the Board of Education direct staff to continue working with schools to implement traffic safety measures identified through the recent traffic safety study engagement and report back to the board on implementation progress in 12 months.

Trustee Yang provided rationale for the amendment. Following discussion, trustees voted on the amendment.

**CARRIED**  
NEGATIVE: R. BELLEZA

### **Main Motion**

Trustees returned to the main motion as amended and voted.

**CARRIED**

(b) **2025/26 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw – Three Readings**

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to her report as included in the agenda package

**There was unanimous consensus that three readings of the 2025/26 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 2025/2026 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 2025/2026.

3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2025/2026 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$377,742,893 for the 2025/2026 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 2025/2026.

**031/2026 FIRST READING MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:**

**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 2025/2026 fiscal year amounts to \$377,742,893. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

The Secretary Treasurer responded to questions from trustees regarding the capital transfer, budget deficit, and unfunded liabilities. Discussion ensued regarding the mid-year funding reduction and its impact on the district.

**032/2026 SECOND READING MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:**

**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 2025/2026 fiscal year amounts to \$377,742,893. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

**033/2026 THIRD AND FINAL READING MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**CARRIED**

The 2025/26 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw having been read a first, second and third time, is passed and adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

**8. New Business**

Nil.

## 9. Questions from the Public

The Superintendent clarified potential adjustments to student programs following an inquiry from a representative of the RDPA and encouraged parents to contact school principals for information about school-based program decisions.

The Superintendent addressed a concern from the President of the RDPA regarding student programs and offered to meet with the RDPA to provide further clarification if needed. He then responded to questions about traffic and student safety during drop-off and pick-up at secondary schools.

## 10. Standing Committee Reports

### (a) Audit Committee

*Chairperson: Rod Belleza*

*Vice Chairperson: David Yang*

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

### (b) Education Committee

*Chairperson: David Yang*

*Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson*

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

### (c) Facilities and Building Committee

*Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi*

*Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney*

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on January 7, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 4:30 pm.

### (d) Finance and Legal Committee

*Chairperson: Alice Wong*

*Vice Chairperson: Donna Sargent*

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:00 am.

### (e) Policy Committee

*Chairperson: Debbie Tablotney*

*Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson*

- (i) **RECOMMENDATION:** Policy 701.11-R: Naming and Renaming of Schools and District Facilities.

The Committee Chairperson spoke to the report as included in the agenda package and clarified trustees' questions regarding the naming and renaming policy.

**034/2026      MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:**

**THAT** the Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Education that revised Policy 701.11-R: Naming and Renaming of Schools and District Facilities be referred to Partner Group Review Process for the period of February 19, 2026 to April 10, 2026.

**CARRIED**

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on January 12, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Monday, February 9, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2026, at 11:00 am.

## **11. Board Committee and Representative Reports**

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

A meeting was held on January 28, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2026 at 9:30 am.

- (b) **BCSTA**

BCSTA 2026 Spring Provincial Council meeting will be held on February 20, 2026. BCSTA AGM 2026 will be held on April 9-11, 2026.

- (c) **BCPSEA**

BCPSEA Annual General Meeting was held on January 29, 2026. Trustee Tablotney reported on the AGM, highlighting that Trustee Sargent was re-elected to the BCPSEA Board of Directors. She noted that BCPSEA has completed its five-year strategic plan and that the 2026 symposium is scheduled for November 30 to December 1, 2026.

## **12. Correspondence**

- (a) For action:

Nil.

- (b) For information:

Letter from the Ministry of Education and Child Care

Trustee Sargent referred to a letter from the Ministry of Education and Child Care dated February 18, 2026, noting its emphasis on student safety. The Superintendent confirmed that the letter has been distributed to all families.

**13. Adjournment**

**035/2026 MOVED BY A. WONG AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:**

**THAT** the regular meeting of Wednesday, February 18, 2026 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**CARRIED**

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K. HAMAGUCHI  
Chairperson

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C. WANG  
Secretary Treasurer