

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

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 7:00 pm**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom and via Zoom**

---

**Present:**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Chairperson                               | K. Hamaguchi  |
| Vice Chairperson                          | H. Larson     |
| Trustee                                   | D. Sargent    |
| Trustee                                   | D. Tabolotney |
| Trustee                                   | A. Wong       |
| Trustee                                   | D. Yang       |
| Superintendent of Schools                 | C. Usih       |
| Secretary Treasurer                       | C. Wang       |
| Assistant Superintendent                  | R. Laing      |
| Assistant Superintendent                  | M. Naser      |
| Assistant Superintendent                  | B. Thompson   |
| Executive Director, Human Resources       | T. Major      |
| Director of Instruction, Student Services | R. Johal*     |
| Manager, Feeding Futures                  | I. Lai*       |
| Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary) | T. Lee        |

**Regrets:**

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Trustee | R. Belleza |
|---------|------------|

\*Present for a portion of the meeting

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:06 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.

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 Larson:** 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 2026 theme, “Our Power, Our Planet,” highlights the strength of collective action to defend and sustain the environment.

Across the district, schools will participate in a variety of classroom and school-wide activities to recognize Earth Day. Environmental learning is embedded in many classrooms, with students engaging in projects and initiatives that promote sustainable practices within their school communities. These experiences provide meaningful opportunities for students to explore their role in caring for the environment and contributing to positive change.

Earth Day aligns with Strategic Plan Priority One: Success for All Learners, supporting our commitment to ensuring students develop the skills and global competencies needed for lifelong learning. 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 Wong:** Briefs regarding the 2026/27 Annual Budget will be accepted without prior notice at the 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 Yang:** April is Sikh Heritage Month in Canada, an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant contributions, and leadership of Sikh Canadians in our schools and communities. First established in Ontario in 2013 and recognized nationally in 2019, Sikh Heritage Month invites us to learn more about Sikh histories, traditions, and values rooted in seva (SAY-vuh) (selfless service), equality, and justice. We honour the meaningful contributions and guidance of Sikh students, staff, families, and Elders within our district and beyond. May this month be a time of learning, appreciation, and celebration of the Sikh community that continues to enrich our schools and society.

**(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 Wong noted the next Council Board meeting will be held on April 29, 2026 at 9:30 am.

**045/2026 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED D. YANG:**

**THAT** the Wednesday, March 11, 2026 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 Superintendent responded to a question from Mr. Billings, a representative of the Richmond District Parents Association (RDPA) regarding the Feeding Futures program, noting that it supports vulnerable students, including through the provision of grocery cards during school breaks, and is administered at the school level. PACs were encouraged to connect with school principals regarding questions or concerns, and staff offered to provide further information if required.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Thompson responded to a question from the President, RDPA regarding the Grade 10 Physical and Health Education curriculum, noting that CPR and AED are part of the curriculum and that parents may contact school staff for information on its delivery.

**5. Executive**

The Superintendent wished students, families, and staff a restful and enjoyable spring break, and acknowledged the dedication of district staff and their contributions to student success.

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

(a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, February 18, 2026 was included for information.

(b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, February 18, 2026

**046/2026 MOVED BY D. TABOLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:**

**THAT** the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, February 18, 2026 regular meeting as circulated.

**CARRIED**

- (c) A record of an in-camera special meeting of the board held Monday, February 23, 2026 was included for information.

**7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes**

- (a) **Feeding Futures and National School Food Program Update**

The Director of Instruction, Student Services and Manager, Feeding Futures spoke to the report as included in the agenda package.

Trustees expressed support for the Feeding Futures program, highlighting its impact on student well-being and the importance of food security. Discussion ensued on program delivery, supports for students outside of school, and the need for continued advocacy to sustain funding.

*The Manager, Feeding Futures left the meeting at 7:41 pm.*

- (b) **Substance-Use Awareness and Prevention in Physical and Health Education K-12**

Assistant Superintendent Thompson and the Director of Instruction, Student Services spoke to the report as included in the agenda package. Trustees thanked staff for their work and support for students. Discussion ensued regarding the K-12 substance use curriculum, highlighting its age-appropriate, skill-based approach, community partnerships, strong engagement, and lower-than-average student substance use.

*The Director of Instruction, Student Services left the meeting at 8:18 pm.*

- (c) **RECOMMENDATION – Proposed District Calendars 2026/27 and 2027/28**

Assistant Superintendent Naser spoke to the report as included in the agenda package. She then responded to trustees' questions regarding the Richmond Virtual School calendar, noting that "other days in session" are non-instructional and that balanced calendars at certain schools are valued by some families and staff.

**047/2026 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:**

**THAT** the Board of Education approve the proposed school calendars for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 school years as presented.

**CARRIED**

**8. New Business**

Nil.

## 9. Questions from the Public

The Superintendent responded to a question regarding food programs in schools from a parent from Anderson Elementary school and noted that they can contact the school principal for more information.

A representative of the RDPA, Mr. Billings, inquired about substance use data, gift card programs, and district reporting, and raised questions on trends and funding comparisons.

## 10. Standing Committee Reports

### (a) Audit Committee

*Chairperson: Rod Belleza*

*Vice Chairperson: David Yang*

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

### (b) Education Committee

*Chairperson: David Yang*

*Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson*

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 Tabolotney*

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 4:30 pm.

### (d) Finance and Legal Committee

*Chairperson: Alice Wong*

*Vice Chairperson: Donna Sargent*

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:00 am.

### (e) Policy Committee

*Chairperson: Debbie Tabolotney*

*Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson*

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

The next meeting will be held on April 29, 2026 at 9:30 am.

(b) **BCSTA**

BCSTA 2026 Spring Provincial Council meeting was held on February 20, 2026. BCSTA AGM 2026 will be held on April 9-11, 2026 – Trustees have been registered.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Trustee Tabolotney noted members voted in favour of ratifying the provincial collective agreement.

**12. Correspondence**

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Nil.

**13. Adjournment**

**048/2026 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:**

**THAT** the regular meeting of Wednesday, March 11, 2026 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:37 pm.

**CARRIED**

---

K. HAMAGUCHI  
Chairperson

---

C. WANG  
Secretary Treasurer