

Education Committee Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 6:00 pm
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	D. Yang
Vice-Chairperson	H. Larson
Trustee Member	R. Belleza
Alternate Member	A. Wong
Superintendent	C. Usih
Assistant Superintendent	M. Naser
District Administrator	L. Chau
Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association	S. Boljuncic
Representative, Richmond Association of School Administrators	A. Pikkarainen
1 st Vice President, Canadian Union of Public Employees 716	N. Williams
President, Richmond District Parents' Association	C. Huang
Outdoor Learning Teacher Consultant	M. Zeni
Teacher, Homma Elementary	S. Regan
Teacher, McNair Secondary	M. Wolfe
Student, McNair Secondary	
Professor and Director, UBC Human Early Learning Partnership	M. Brussoni
Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)	J. Coronel

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

1. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Approve Minutes

The minutes of the public meeting held Wednesday, February 11, 2026, were approved as circulated.

3. Staff Presentations

Assistant Superintendent Naser provided an overview of staff presentations on Outdoor Learning and introduced District Administrator Chau who provided background information on presenters.

3.1 Outdoor Learning

Dr. Megan Zeni, Outdoor Learning Teacher Consultant, provided background information on school-based outdoor learning as a hands-on and physically active approach to curricular learning. She also highlighted the benefits of outdoor learning for both students and staff.

Sarah Regan, a teacher at Homma Elementary, shared an overview of the school's Outdoor Garden and Classroom program, noting that each session balances structured learning with time for unstructured play. She also shared how outdoor learning supports students' physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Michael Wolfe, a teacher at McNair Secondary, presented an outdoor learning perspective from the secondary school context. He spoke about the Mini School program at McNair and described how outdoor trips are organized.

A McNair Secondary student shared their experiences in the Mini School program, including learning gained from outdoor trips and the range of outdoor learning opportunities available at the school and in the surrounding community.

3.2 Catalyst Outdoor Play and Learning Study

Dr. Mariana Brussoni, Professor and Director, Human Early Learning Partnership at UBC, along with Dr. Zeni, presented findings from their research to better understand children's thoughts and experiences about outdoor learning and parents' perspectives on outdoor learning.

Dr. Brussoni also shared results from a district-wide teacher survey regarding their overall comfort of teaching outdoors, key student outcomes from outdoor play and learning, availability of outdoor learning resources, and school culture toward outdoor learning, among others. She highlighted that school administrative support is a key factor influencing teachers' willingness to teach outdoors.

In response to a question from the President of Richmond District Parents Association, District Administrator Chau clarified that the incentive outdoor program is currently offered at MacNeill Secondary.

Dr. Zeni responded to a trustee's question regarding improving access to outdoor learning for students with limited socioeconomic means. She noted that an asset review of all outdoor play and learning spaces across the district is underway to support equitable access for all schools.

The Vice President of Richmond Teachers Association suggested that inquiry grants could be explored to support outdoor learning initiatives across the district.

Ms. Pikkarainen from Richmond Association of School Administrators inquired on how principals and vice principals can provide support in growing a culture of outdoor learning across the district. The Superintendent echoed the statements of trustees and the student from McNair Secondary that outdoor learning provides diverse and meaningful opportunities for student learning.

Trustees and partner group representatives expressed their appreciation for the highly informative presentation and recognized outdoor learning as an engaging and beneficial approach that supports both student learning and teaching practice.

4. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday May 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David Yang
Chairperson, Education Committee*