

Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 – 7:00 pm
1st Floor Boardroom and via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
Vice Chairperson	H. Larson
Trustee	R. Belleza
Trustee	D. Sargent
Trustee	D. Tabolotney
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 7:03 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.

1. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements, Trustees' Updates

(a) Recognition of Visitors

Nil.

(b) Announcements

Trustee Larson: During the month of June, we celebrate National Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage, and diversity of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This month is a time to learn about, appreciate, and acknowledge the significant contributions that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples have made in shaping our country.

In addition, we recognize and honour National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, which coincides with the summer solstice. This day serves as an annual reminder to celebrate the rich heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

Aligned with the Board's Strategic Plan, the histories, perspectives, and learning approaches of Indigenous Peoples are meaningfully embedded in district planning and practice. Students are provided with authentic opportunities to learn about, respect, and engage with Indigenous cultures throughout the year.

National Indigenous History Month is a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to honour, uplift, and amplify Indigenous voices in the spirit of truth, understanding, and reconciliation.

Trustee Sargent: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are a priority in the board's strategic plan. Our goal is that district environments are equitable and inclusive so all members of the school community can participate with dignity, purpose and options while experiencing a strong sense of belonging. These environments also support individuals in expressing their identities with confidence in the world.

With this commitment, each year the Richmond School District recognizes and supports Pride Season, which refers to the wide range of Pride events that take place over the summer, from June to September, when 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and allies come together to spotlight the resilience, celebrate the talent, and recognize the contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Although special attention is put on the Pride events during the summer months, they happen throughout the year in many communities.

Our district would like to acknowledge the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and their allies, recognize and celebrate their positive contributions to our community, and wish everyone a Happy Pride Season!

(c) **Any materials not included in packages available to the public**

The Secretary Treasurer noted that all materials had been made available to the public on the District website.

2. Adoption of Agenda

082/2026 MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Notice of Motion be added to the agenda.

Trustee Belleza requested the addition of a Notice of Motion to bring forward a motion at the next Board meeting and proceeded to read the Notice of Motion into the record:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) direct Staff to reinstate the previous competitive format of the District Track and Field Meet;

AND FURTHER THAT develop and present options for inclusive and meaningful participation opportunities for students who are unable or unwilling to participate in competitive events, while ensuring that all students continue to benefit from physical activity, skill development, and a positive school experience.

Discussion ensued regarding the addition of the Notice of Motion. Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

DEFEATED

NEGATIVE: K. HAMAGUCHI, H. LARSON, D. SARGENT, D. TABOLOTNEY, D. YANG

The Wednesday, May 20, 2026 regular agenda of the Board of Education was adopted as circulated.

3. Presentations, Briefs, Special Recognition

(a) Presentations

District French Language Events and Activities

Assistant Superintendent Naser introduced staff and students who presented on “District French Language Events and Activities,” including a teacher consultant, a dual-track school teacher, and students from McMath and McRoberts Secondary schools. The presentation highlighted French programming across the district, student experiences, and a teacher reflection on professional learning supported by district consultants and curriculum-based resources and experiences.

Trustees thanked staff and students for their presentation, and the students responded to questions from trustees regarding post-secondary pathways, student success, and the personal impacts of French language learning.

(b) Briefs

Nil.

(c) Special Recognition

Nil.

4. Questions from the Public

In response to a question from Mr. Dean Billings, President of the Richmond District Parents’ Association, regarding Indigenous student success rates, the Superintendent noted that staff will follow up.

Liz Baverstock, President of the Richmond Teachers’ Association, commented on the budget and impacts of staffing reductions, emphasizing the importance of raising public awareness of funding for public education, including in upcoming trustee elections.

5. Executive

The Superintendent provided an update on the revised elementary track and field format, noting that feedback has been received from parents, students, and staff, and that a district survey will be distributed to gather further input. The Superintendent advised that survey results will be presented at the June 17 public Board meeting, followed by engagement with key partners and a subsequent decision on the format for the 2026/27 school year.

The Superintendent responded to trustees' questions regarding the survey, noting it will be widely communicated and made available district-wide in multiple languages.

6. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

(a) A record of an in-camera meeting of the board held Wednesday, April 22, 2026 was included for information.

(b) Regular meeting of the board held Wednesday, April 22, 2026

083/2026 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Wednesday, April 22, 2026 regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

(c) A record of an in-camera special meeting of the board held Monday, May 11, 2026 was included for information.

(d) Special meeting of the board held Monday, May 11, 2026

084/2026 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY D. YANG:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of Monday, May 11, 2026 regular meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from Prior Minutes

(a) **2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw – Three Readings**

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

Trustees then provided their views and feedback regarding the annual budget process and expressed appreciating to the Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer and the Finance team for their work and thanked education partner groups for their collaboration.

There was unanimous consensus that three readings of the 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw take place.

The Chairperson then read the first reading of the 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw in full:

ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW

A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND) (called the "Board") to adopt the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2026/2027 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 Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 38 (Richmond) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2026/2027.
3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2026/2027 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$380,672,210 for the 2026/2027 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the Act.
4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2026/2027.

085/2026 FIRST READING MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

CARRIED

The Chairperson then read the second reading of the bylaw in summary:

The Annual Budget Bylaw has been prepared in accordance with the School Act, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry policies. The total budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year amounts to \$380,672,210. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2026/2027.

The Secretary Treasurer then responded to questions from trustees regarding the budget, noting the consolidated budget is balanced, Ministry requirements are met, and the district's reserve levels are within policy.

Further discussion ensued regarding funding and enrollment challenges, reserve use, advocacy efforts, and the impacts of budget decisions on students and staff.

086/2026 SECOND READING MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

CARRIED

The Chairperson then read the third reading of the bylaw in summary:

The Annual Budget Bylaw has been prepared in accordance with the School Act, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry policies. The total budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year amounts to \$380,672,210. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2026/2027.

Trustees emphasized the importance of ongoing advocacy for public education funding.

087/2026 THIRD AND FINAL READING MOVED BY A. WONG AND SECONDED BY D. TABOLOTNEY:

CARRIED
NEGATIVE: H. LARSON

The 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw having been read a first, second and third time, is passed and adopted this 20th day of May 2026.

The Chairperson then read the motion to approve authorized signatories for the 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw.

088/2026 MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

FURTHER THAT the Board authorize the Chairperson of the Board, Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer to sign and submit the 2026/27 Annual Budget to the Ministry of Education and Child Care before June 30, 2026.

CARRIED
NEGATIVE: H. LARSON

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their work and contribution during the annual budget process.

8. New Business

Nil.

9. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

10. Standing Committee Reports

- (a) **Audit Committee**
Chairperson: Rod Belleza
Vice Chairperson: David Yang

A meeting was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2026.

(b) **Education Committee**

Chairperson: David Yang

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on April 15, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

(c) **Facilities and Building Committee**

Chairperson: Ken Hamaguchi

Vice Chairperson: Debbie Tabolotney

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on April 1, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 4:30 pm.

(d) **Finance and Legal Committee**

Chairperson: Alice Wong

Vice Chairperson: Donna Sargent

- (i) Minutes of the meeting held on April 15, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 10:00 am.

(e) **Policy Committee**

Chairperson: Debbie Tabolotney

Vice Chairperson: Heather Larson

- (i) **Notice of Motion: 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.

- (ii) Minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 2026, were attached for information.

A meeting was held on Monday, May 11, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2026, at 11:00 am.

11. Board Committee and Representative Reports

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

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

(b) **BCSTA**

Nil.

(c) **BCPSEA**

Nil.

12. Correspondence

(a) For action:

Nil.

(b) For information:

Nil.

13. Adjournment

089/2026 MOVED BY D. YANG AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:

THAT the regular meeting of Wednesday, May 20, 2026 of the Board of Education be adjourned at 9:01 pm.

CARRIED

K. HAMAGUCHI
Chairperson

C. WANG
Secretary Treasurer