

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 38 (RICHMOND)  
7811 GRANVILLE AVENUE, RICHMOND, BC (via ZOOM)  
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020  
AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present:	Chairperson	K. Hamaguchi
	Trustees	S. Nixon
		N. Goldstein
		H. Larson
		D. Sargent
		R. Lee
		D. Tablotney
	Superintendent of Schools	S. Robinson
	Deputy Superintendent	R. Ryan
	Secretary Treasurer	R. Uyeno
	Assistant Superintendent	L. Archer
	Assistant Superintendent	W. Lim
	Executive Director, Facilities Services	F. Geyer
	Executive Director, Learning & Business Technology	R. Laing
	Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
	Recording Secretary	C. Cleary

***The Richmond Board of Education acknowledged and thanked the First Peoples of the hənqəminəm' (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.***

*The Chairperson called the meeting to order 7:06 pm.*

**1. Recognition of Visitors, Announcements and Updates from Trustees**

**(a) Recognition of Visitors**

The Chairperson welcomed the gallery to the meeting.

- (b) Trustee Larson - This month, Canadians celebrate National Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. National Indigenous History Month is a time for learning about, appreciating and acknowledging the contributions First Nations, Inuit and Metis people have made in shaping Canada. On Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, Canadians from all walks of life are invited to participate in events that will take place to honour Indigenous peoples across the country.

Trustee Nixon - Every year the Richmond School District hosts the French public speaking contest for grades 6-12 where the students prepare 2-5 minute speeches about a topic that interests them. Unfortunately, this year, the event was cancelled. As an alternative, Canadian Parents for French (CPF) invited students in Kindergarten through grade 12 across Canada to record and virtually post 1-3 minute videos, en Français, sharing how they are spending their time while learning was postponed and events were cancelled.

We celebrate all of the students that submitted their videos and want to acknowledge the following winners from Richmond:

Category grade 11/12 Core French  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: Kyle Palacios, Palmer Secondary, Richmond, BC grade 12  
Category grade 10 Core French  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Dominique Vega, Cambie Secondary, Richmond, BC grade 10  
Category grade 6b French Immersion  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Alina Krasnoperova, Bridge Elementary, Richmond, BC grade 6

Congratulations to these students and all those who participated.

Secretary-Treasurer Uyeno - A reminder was made for those that joined the meeting to please ensure that video was off and microphones muted to eliminate background noise;

For Trustees, video turned on for the entire meeting and microphones muted unless speaking;

There will be two question periods at which time, questions sent to the Board meeting email account will be read out. For those who have not already submitted questions, there is an opportunity to via: [boardmeetings@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:boardmeetings@sd38.bc.ca);

Trustees and stakeholder participants were advised to use the 'raise hand' feature by tapping on the participant icon at the bottom of the Zoom screen and prior to asking a question or making a comment, state their name.

For the public joining the meeting, they are able to listen to the meeting but not speak or use chatbox during the meeting; and

Audio/video recording of the meeting will be made available for viewing after this meeting.

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

The Secretary Treasurer noted that an email from Daniella Jovanovic regarding Black History in BC Schools curriculum was received on June 8, 2020 and added to the public agenda package on the District website.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

*A Recommendation was added to the Agenda under Item New Business 7(b) Anti-racism Response.*

### **076/2020 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Wednesday, June 10, 2020 Regular agenda of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

## **3. Presentations, Special Recognitions, Briefs and Questions from the Public**

- (a) Presentations

Nil.

(b) Special Recognitions

Nil.

(c) Briefs

Nil.

(d) Questions from the Public

There were no questions submitted.

**4. Executive**

The Superintendent of Schools provided an update on activities since the May Board meeting. The Superintendent noted that the re-opening of schools on June 1<sup>st</sup> throughout the District went smoothly. The school sites were well prepared with health and safety protocols and thanks were extended to staff across the District who worked hard to welcome students back into a safe and healthy school environment. In particular, thanks were expressed to operations and custodial staff who worked hard to get the schools prepared, clean and safe. There was an increase of elementary kids attending in person over the first week which is a good sign that parents are starting to feel more comfortable with their children in face to face instruction. Secondary school numbers were lower than expected but online learning has provided support with steady attendance at each of the ten schools.

The Superintendent spoke about the speculation on what September may look like for schools. The Premier, Minister of Education and Provincial Health Officer have all made recent comments that there will likely be a hybrid model for the Fall. The District is looking at some possible models and will share information with staff, parents and the community when it becomes available.

The Strategic Planning process has been extended due to Covid-19 and there will be opportunities for stakeholder input early in the Fall.

The Superintendent thanked parents throughout the District for their understanding and patience during these uncertain and unpredictable times over the past few months.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

(a) Regular meeting of the Board held May 13, 2020

**077/2020 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY S. NIXON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Minutes of Wednesday, May 13, 2020 Regular meeting as circulated.

**CARRIED**

(b) Record of an In-camera meeting of the Board held May 13, 2020 was included for information.

**6. Business Arising**

(a) 2020/2021 Annual Budget

A memorandum from the Secretary-Treasurer was included with the Agenda package and background provided. The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the pandemic presented challenges in these unprecedented times including disruption of in-class instruction, lower projected enrolment of international students due to travel restrictions, and other factors causing a negative impact on the School District. However, he noted that thankfully the District is in a strong financial position and noted appreciation due in part to Senior Team, the Finance Team, Trustees, key Stakeholders – RTA, CUPE, RDPA and RMAPs for their participation and input into the Budget Advisory Process.

There were questions and comments from trustees beginning with thanks and gratitude to the Secretary-Treasurer and staff for working through this very difficult time. Trustees noted concern regarding the funding changes and uncertainty about the international program but also expressed that the District is fortunate to have a surplus and will continue with a balanced approach to maintain our priorities.

*The Chairperson then noted there would be 3 readings of the Budget Bylaw and asked for consensus:*

**There was consensus that 3 readings of the Budget Bylaw take place.**

**078/2020 FIRST READING MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

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 2020/2021 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. Board has complied with the provisions of the Act 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 2020/2021.
3. The attached "Statement 2" showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2020/2021 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$280,030,789 for the 2020/2021 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 2020/2021.

**CARRIED**

**079/2020 SECOND READING MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY S. NIXON:**

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 2020/2021 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act")

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4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

**CARRIED**

**080/2020 THIRD AND FINAL READING MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON :**

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 2020/2021 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act")

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4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

**CARRIED**

**The Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2020/21 having been read a first, second and third time, was passed and adopted this 10th day of June 2020.**

**081/2020 MOVED BY H. LARSON AND SECONDED BY S. NIXON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) authorize the Chair of the Board and Secretary Treasurer to sign the 2020/21 Annual Budget Bylaw and submit the 2020/21 Annual Budget Bylaw together with the 2020/21 Annual Budget to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2020.

**CARRIED**

(b) Board Approved Bus Riders

Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services provided background from the memorandum that was included with the Agenda package. Mr. Geyer noted that transportation for students to and from school is contained in Board Policy 522/522-R that determines criteria and eligibility for bus service. Categories include Eligible Riders, Special Needs Riders, Board Approved Riders and Courtesy Riders noting there are 28 sites the District provides bus service to.

**082/2020 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:**

**THAT** bus service for those students at schools served by the District's transportation system, for whom safety concerns have been identified, continue for the 2020/2021 school year;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the service be reviewed annually to determine whether the safety concerns are still applicable, and that staff report back to the Board on this issue.

**CARRIED**

(c) SOGI Annual Update

The Superintendent of Schools spoke to his memorandum and annual update for the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Policy Implementation Update. Since the Policy was approved two years ago, steps have been taken to implement the policy with a measured goal and to create understanding to work towards a safe environment for all students and to bring schools and community together in support of all students.

Four meetings were scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year, but ultimately only two meetings were held as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that face to face meetings will be possible in September; however, virtual meetings will be scheduled in order to keep the work of the committee and implementation of the policy moving forward.

Trustees were pleased to see that the work is going ahead and support that SOGI has provided to students. A trustee asked about the gender-neutral washrooms layout with regard to multiple cubicle washrooms versus single stall. The Superintendent noted that staff would check and provide further details and information to the Board.

(d) Schedule of School Charges

The Deputy Superintendent provided background and information on the memorandum provided with the agenda package. A correction was noted that the Lee Elementary amount should be \$25 under school supplies. The Deputy Superintendent noted that while the majority of lessons, activities, projects occur in schools at no additional cost to parents, some educational activities and events do require additional funding from parents such as field trips, special year end events, overnight excursions, etc. Without financial support from families or from other external grants, these educational and enriching activities would not occur.

**083/2020 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the 2020-2021 Schedule of School Charges for Elementary and Secondary Schools in accordance with the School Act.

**CARRIED**

**7. New Business**

(a) Advocacy for International Student Study Permit Holders

The Superintendent provided a memorandum with the Agenda package. Background on the Order in Council Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to Covid-19 in Canada Order was issued by the Government of Canada, March 26, 2020. The Superintendent noted there is concern for new international students who have applied for study permits after March 18, 2020 who may potentially be denied entry to Canada. There are approximately 260 students in that situation who may not be able to come to Richmond to begin schooling this September. It is important that an exemption to the order be granted as soon as possible in case the order is extended past June 30<sup>th</sup>.

As there are several other metropolitan Vancouver school districts engaging in advocacy efforts, it was recommended that the Richmond Board of Education join by sending a letter to local MPs, and the Premier of British Columbia.

Trustees asked if there was an age restriction and noted that the International Education Program was of great benefit to the community and students. Trustees also asked that the letter be sent to the Minister of Education and copied to our local MLAs.

**084/2020 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) write a letter to local Members of Parliament and the Premier of British Columbia requesting they advocate with the federal government to allow entry to Canada for all new K-12 international students registered to commence their studies in September 2020. The letter should also include a request for parents of elementary-age international students to receive a visitor record in order to be able to accompany their children to Canada.

**CARRIED**

(b) Anti-racism Response

The Vice-Chairperson spoke about the recent events in the US that have led to significant and wide spread discussion about the issue of racism. The Richmond School District takes these issues seriously and the Board and District wish to take a leadership role to ensure our schools are more inclusive and address any racism impacting schools. The Board supports that the District form a Diversity and Anti-Racism working group with a unified and comprehensive strategy to address the issue of racism.

**085/2020 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

That a Diversity and Anti-Racism Working Group be formed in the upcoming school year, comprised of board and district stakeholder representatives, with a mandate which will include:

- 1) consultation with students, staff and other stakeholders regarding their experiences with racism within the school district;
- 2) a review of what the district is currently doing with respect to educating students about various forms of racism;
- 3) a review of current district policy and practices regarding incidents of racism;
- 4) identification of what gaps the district needs to address regarding anti-racism education and practices, including (but not limited to): policy, hiring practices, staff professional development, school and district culture and educational initiatives, and advocacy regarding curriculum and other provincial initiatives;
- 5) and make recommendations to the Board for further action.

**CARRIED**

**8. Questions from the Public: Tonight's Agenda**

Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association asked about work on joint advocacy regarding international students. Ms. Baverstock also thanked the Board for its intentional work in creating an Anti-racism working group and noted that RTA members are eager to be involved.

Ms. Baverstock then spoke about curriculum and that the Ministry guidelines might reflect additional graduation credits to include such topics as Canadian Black history, Asian history and others in the social sciences.

Trustees thanked the RTA President for her thoughtful comments and noted they are much appreciated.

**9. Standing Committee Reports**

- (a) Audit Committee  
*Chair: Donna Sargent*  
*Vice Chair: Debbie Tablotney*

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020.

- (b) Education Committee  
*Chair: Ken Hamaguchi*  
*Vice Chair: Norman Goldstein*
- (c) Facilities and Building Committee  
*Chair: Debbie Tablotney*  
*Vice Chair: Sandra Nixon*

- (i) School Acquisition Charge Resolution

Background on the Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) was provided by the Executive Director, Facilities Services. The ESSP is required to be passed by the Board of Education annually to identify proposed new school site requirements in the District, including long term future acquisitions. Once adopted by the Board, a certified copy of its ESSP resolution and report will be provided to the City of Richmond and Metro Vancouver Regional District for acceptance pursuant to the School Site Acquisition Provisions of the Local Government Act. The eligible school site requirements are also included in the District's Five-Year Capital Plan.

**086/2020 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approves the 2020-21 Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) through adoption of the 2020-21 ESSP Resolution.

**CARRIED**

- (ii) 2021/2022 Five-Year Capital Plan

The Executive Director, Facilities Services spoke to the memorandum attached to the agenda package providing background on the annual Five Year Capital Plan submissions used by the Ministry of Education to determine priority capital projects that may be supported or approved in the Ministry's Capital Plan for the following fiscal year. The Executive Director outlined the Major Capital projects including: Seismic Mitigation Program, School Expansion Program, School Replacement Program, and the Minor Capital Funding Programs that include: School Enhancement Program, Carbon Neutral Capital Program, Bus Acquisition Program, Playground Equipment Program the Building Envelope Program. All projects recommended for submission are consistent with the District's Long Range Facilities Plan.

**087/2020 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approves the 2021-2022 Five-Year Capital Plan.

**CARRIED**

- (iii) Minutes of meeting held March 4, 2020 were attached for information.

(d) Finance and Legal Committee

*Chair: Ken Hamaguchi*

*Vice Chair: Richard Lee*

(i) Schedule of Charges for the Use of School Facilities

Trustee Hamaguchi provided an overview from the memorandum attached to the agenda package. Rental rates for the use of school facilities are reviewed each year to ensure that rates are keeping pace with inflation costs.

**088/2020 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY R. LEE:**

**THAT** a 2.5% increase to both non-commercial (not-for-profit) and commercial rates (for profit) on the Schedule of Charges for the Use of School Facilities be approved by the Board effective July 1, 2020.

**CARRIED**

(ii) Trustee Expenses ending March 31, 2020

**089/2020 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY R. LEE :**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) is paying for expenses incurred by the Trustees in the discharge of their duties,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that in accordance with the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approves Trustees' expenses paid during the three-month period ended March 31, 2020, in the amount of \$7,972.51.

**CARRIED**

(iii) Minutes of meeting held on February 19, 2020 were attached for information.

(e) Policy Committee

*Chair: Sandra Nixon*

*Vice Chair: Donna Sargent*

(i) Policy 631: *Accumulated Operating Surplus & Capital*

**090/2020 MOVED BY S. NIXON AND SECONDED BY N. GOLDSTEIN:**

In accordance with Board Policy 204: *Creation and Revision of Policy and Regulations*, this RECOMMENDATION to the June 10, 2020 Public meeting of the Board of Education (Richmond) is to place proposed new Policy 631 & 631-R: *Accumulated Operating Surplus and Capital Reserves* into the stakeholder review process for questions and feedback by October 5, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**10. Correspondence**

FOR ACTION:

- (a) An email dated June 3, 2020 received from Daniella Jovanovic regarding Black History in BC Schools curriculum.

Trustee Tablotney provided background and information on the current curriculum relating to racism noting there is some curriculum relating to racism against indigenous and other peoples woven throughout the curriculum at both elementary and secondary. This includes past discriminatory government practices such as the Chinese Head Tax, residential schools, Japanese internment, and the impact of colonization on First Peoples in BC embedded in elementary curriculum. There are no specific references to the history of racism directed at the black community.

**091/2020 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:**

In acknowledging that current Ministry of Education curriculum contains information on the history of racism towards different racial groups – but not specifically the history of racism towards the black community, that the Board of Education of School District #38 (Richmond) write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that Canadian Black history, including the history of racism towards the black community, be included as prescribed BC curriculum for elementary and secondary school students.

**CARRIED**

**11. Board Committee and Representative Reports**

- (a) Council/Board Liaison Committee

Trustee Hamaguchi provided an update on the Council Board meeting that was held June 10<sup>th</sup> with topics including the childcare strategy and joint plan for playground re-opening in the District.

**12. Adjournment**

**092/2020 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:**

**THAT** the regular meeting of Wednesday, June 10 , 2020 of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**CARRIED**

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K. HAMAGUCHI,  
CHAIRPERSON

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R. UYENO,  
SECRETARY TREASURER