

**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, SEPTEMBER 23, 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	C. Brautigam
	Executive Director, Facilities Services	F. Geyer
	Executive Director, Learning & Business Technology	R. Laing
	Assistant Secretary Treasurer	M. Fu*
	Director, Communications & Marketing	D. Sadler
	Director of Instruction, Learning Services	R. Steward*
	Recording Secretary	C. Cleary

\*via Zoom

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

*The Chairperson called the meeting to order 7:04 pm.*

**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;

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);

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.

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

**(a) Recognition of Visitors**

The Chairperson welcomed the gallery to the meeting.

- (b) **Trustee Sargent** – Orange Shirt Day, which began in Williams Lake BC in 2013, honours the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. It has become a national movement to recognize the survivors of residential schools, honour them and show a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. Acknowledged every year on September 30<sup>th</sup>, Orange Shirt day opens the door to conversations on all aspects of residential schools and is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of residential schools and the legacy they have left behind.

The Richmond Board of Education is committed to reconciliation and invites all members of our school communities to participate in Orange Shirt Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Trustee Larson** – Held annually on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October since 1994, World Teachers' Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the [1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers](#).

In 2020, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme "**Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future**". The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly added to the challenges faced by already over-extended education systems throughout the world. It is no exaggeration to say that the world is at a crossroads and, now more than ever, we must work with teachers to protect the right to education and guide it into the unfolding landscape brought about by the pandemic. This year, in view of the current situation, the celebrations will take place online.

**Trustee Tablotney** – The Richmond Board of Education would like to extend its gratitude to Kuo Hua Trading Company for the generous donation of 10,000 face masks to benefit students in the District. The District would also like to thank the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office for its support in facilitating the donation.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous donation by T&T Supermarket of 10,000 face masks for students and staff. Both donations will be very helpful in ensuring that our staff and students have access to masks at school when they need them.

The Board is very grateful to both organizations for their kind generosity.

**Trustee Goldstein** - Literacy Month raises awareness of the importance of literacy, and raises funds to support community-based literacy programs and initiatives across British Columbia.

The 2020 theme for Literacy Month is "Literacy matters more than ever!" We're highlighting the importance of **Health Literacy, Digital Literacy, Financial Literacy** and **Workplace Literacy**. #LiteracyMatters

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

The Secretary Treasurer noted all materials had been made available.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*A Recommendation was added to the Agenda under Item Business Arising 6 (a) Federal Funding.*

**101/2020 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Wednesday, September 23, 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

The Chairperson noted that any questions submitted would be answered during the second question opportunity on the Agenda.

**4. Executive**

The Superintendent of Schools provided an update on the September Start-Up. Despite the many challenges, there were also many positive aspects including: the great majority of the District's students are back in school with their teachers and peers; about 95% of secondary students and 65% of elementary students are attending face to face; 3,800 elementary students and approximately 450 grade 8-9 students began the remote transitional programs. Start-Up has meant uncertainty and anxiety for many parents, but teachers, principals and vice principals have stepped up in order to meet the needs of students in a highly unusual set of circumstances.

The Superintendent thanked staff and Richmond parents for their patience and understanding as the District worked through the planning over the past month.

At the June 10, 2020 Board meeting, the Board approved a recommendation to form a Diversity and Anti-Racism Working Group during the 2020-2021 school year, comprised of trustee and stakeholder representatives. The Superintendent noted that September has been focused on school start-up but the work with this group will begin by mid-October, led by Assistant Superintendent Brautigam.

At the September 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Workshop on the Strategic Plan, staff were given direction to continue with the stakeholder consultation process. At the upcoming Presidents Council meeting, the draft plan will be reviewed and the hope is that by the December Board meeting, the plan will be ready for approval.

The Superintendent concluded his report and introduced Deputy Superintendent Ryan to provide an update on the Equity in Action and Mental Health Initiatives. The Deputy Superintendent reported on the provincially mandated *Aboriginal Equity in Action Project* for the District in the coming year. The working group will include Trustees, the Musqueam Nation and partner groups to be shepherded by Director of Instruction, Richard Steward and District Administrator, Marie Ratcliffe who are responsible for Indigenous Learning. The Equity in Action Project will culminate in a final report to guide future direction.

The Deputy Superintendent then introduced the Director of Instruction, Learning Services to report on Mental Health Initiatives. The Director updated Trustees on two initiatives including the opening of *The Foundry*, located at 8100 Granville Avenue. The Foundry's goal is to provide walk-in integrated health supports, including counselling, for youth aged 12 – 24. The other mental health initiative is *The Integrated Child and Youth Team* who will work closely with schools and team-based primary care and specialized service providers to offer "wraparound" care to children, youth, and families.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- (a) Regular meeting of the Board held June 10, 2020

**102/2020 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Minutes of Wednesday, June 10, 2020 Regular meeting as circulated.

**CARRIED**

- (b) Record of an In-camera meeting of the Board held June 10, 2020 was included for information.

**6. Business Arising**

- (a) The Federal Safe Return to Class Fund Update

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update to the Memorandum that was included with the Agenda. Trustees commented on how this additional funding assistance is so appreciated. Also appreciated by Trustees was the federal government allowing Districts to have the flexibility and discretion on how the funds would be allocated. Trustees thanked Staff for the spending schedule outlining the spending plan.

**103/2020 MOVED BY S. NIXON AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) supports the District Schedule Spending Plan for "The Federal Safe Return to Class Fund".

**CARRIED**

Trustees then brought forward a motion to send a thank you letter to the Federal government for the funding support.

**104/2020 MOVED BY D.SARGENT AND SECONDED BY N. GOLDSTEIN:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) write to thank the Federal Government for the financial support to School Districts.

**CARRIED**

**7. New Business**

- (a) Nil.

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

1. A member of the public emailed to inquire how to access the Agenda package. The Public agenda was forwarded directly.
2. Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association noted appreciation for the quick turnaround on the federal funding spending for schools and RTA having been consulted.

Ms. Baverstock asked if there was any potential of accessing additional funds to address the increased workloads to support the great number of transitional learners.

Ms. Baverstock next commented and asked if there would be consideration for support staff who are self-isolating or will be, and/or are experiencing child care concerns that will create an inequity in future. Further, it would be appreciated if the District write to the Ministry with regard to FSAs.

Trustees had questions and comments regarding the timing of the FSA. Following some questions around the verbiage for the specific request, the Superintendent noted that if delayed until after Winter break, that would be helpful.

**105/2020 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY SECONDED BY S. NIXON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) request that the Minister of Education delay the administration of the 2020/2021 FSA until after Winter break.

**CARRIED**

**9. Standing Committee Reports**

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

- (i) 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview from the Memorandum included with the Agenda. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), the District's auditors, completed their audit of the 2019/2020 financial statements.

They expressed an unqualified audit opinion that the financial statements are complete, accurate in all material respects and prepared in accordance with accounting requirements under PSAB and *Section 23.1 of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act of BC*.

Some key highlights included: total student enrolment increase of 179.3 fte students; the total operating revenues at \$212.5 million; International student program gross revenues at \$18.4 million; \$34.9 million funding for the Classroom Enhancement Fund to cover 398.14 fte in additional teachers and classroom supports.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer thanked Pramod Chauhan, Manager, Financial Services and the entire Finance Team for the invaluable contribution in the preparation of the year-end financial statements.

The Committee Chair noted that the Auditors were very impressed with the expertise and excellent work in preparation for the audit. Trustees thanked the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and team for all the hard work and excellent preparation and outcome as expressed by PWC.

**106/2020 MOVED BY D. SARGENT AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) approve the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year end 2019-2020 as presented;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Chair of the Board, the Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign the financial statements.

**CARRIED**

A meeting was held on September 14, 2020.

- (b) Education Committee  
*Chair: Ken Hamaguchi*  
*Vice Chair: Norman Goldstein*
- (i) Education Week 2021

**107/2020 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY H. LARSON:**

**THAT** the Board of Education (Richmond) declares February 22 to February 26, 2021 as Education Week in the Richmond School District for the upcoming school year.

**CARRIED**

- (ii) Minutes of meeting held January 29, 2020 were attached for information.

A meeting was held on September 16, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

- (c) Facilities and Building Committee  
*Chair: Debbie Tablotney*  
*Vice Chair: Sandra Nixon*

- (i) Minutes of meeting held May 20, 2020 were attached for information.

A meeting was held on September 9, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 5 pm.

- (d) Finance and Legal Committee  
*Chair: Ken Hamaguchi*  
*Vice Chair: Richard Lee*

- (i) Trustee Expenses ending June 30, 2020

**108/2020 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:**

**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 June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$870.00.

**CARRIED**

- (ii) Minutes of meeting held on May 13, 2020 were attached for information.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020 at 11 am.

- (e) Policy Committee  
*Chair: Sandra Nixon*  
*Vice Chair: Donna Sargent*

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2020 at 10:30 am.

**10. Correspondence**

FOR INFORMATION:

- (a) Minister Fleming responded on July 27, 2020 to the Richmond Board of Education's letter regarding International students. The Ministry shared support and concern with other provincial government offices over current restrictions on K-12 International students study permits.

**11. Board Committee and Representative Reports**

- (a) Council/Board Liaison Committee

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 via WebEx and in person in the Anderson Room, City Hall. There were no additional agenda items for addition.

**12. Adjournment**

**109/2020 MOVED BY N. GOLDSTEIN AND SECONDED BY D. TABLOTNEY:**

**THAT** the regular meeting of Wednesday, September 23, 2020 of the Board of Education (Richmond) be adjourned at 8:08 pm.

**CARRIED**

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K. HAMAGUCHI,  
CHAIRPERSON

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R. UYENO,  
SECRETARY TREASURER