

Council/Board Liaison Committee

Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 9:30 am via Zoom Webinar

Present:

Chairperson, School District #38 D. Tablotney Vice Chairperson, School District #38 H. Larson Councillor, City of Richmond A. Hobbs Councillor, City of Richmond A. Loo Superintendent, School District #38 S. Robinson Deputy Superintendent, School District #38 R. Ryan Secretary Treasurer, School District #38 C. Wang Assistant Superintendent, School District #38 J. MacMillan Assistant Superintendent, School District #38 C. Stanger Executive Director, Facilities Services, School District #38 F. Geyer Director, Transportation, City of Richmond L. Bie Director, Arts Culture & Heritage Services, City of Richmond M. Fenwick Director, Recreation & Sports Services, City of Richmond K. Miller Director, Community Social Development, City of Richmond K. Sommerville Senior Engineer, Transportation Department, City of Richmond S. Hingorani Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary), School District #38 N. Todorovic

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

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

1. Adopt Agenda

Councillor Loo asked that school sport fees (4.5) and recognition of swimming credentials (4.6) be added to the agenda.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee Public Meeting Agenda for January 11, 2023, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2. Adopt Minutes

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Public Minutes of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Standing Items

3.1 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

City staff provided highlights from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meetings on September 28 and November 24, 2022 and spoke to safety measures being implemented in school zones in response to resident concerns about speeding in Richmond.

Councillor Loo inquired about the communication process for Parent Advisory Councils who have traffic safety concerns in their schools. Superintendent Robinson clarified that Parent Advisory Councils should go through school administrators who will then reach out to the School District to work with city staff members.

Discussion ensued about delineators at McNeely Elementary and that a consensus is needed from the neighbourhood to move forth with the removal. It was noted that a meeting will be held in upcoming weeks with the principal, at McNeely Elementary, to understand the concerns of the school and the option to pursue a traffic study.

3.2 Joint City and District Program Committee

Deputy Superintendent Ryan informed the Committee that the Joint City and District Program Committee meeting took place on November 25, 2022.

3.3 Future Agenda Items

Chairperson Tablotney requested to have items and speakers in advance of future Council/Board Committee meetings and asked whether a councillor may be interested in participating in future agenda planning meetings. Councillor Loo affirmed to participate in agenda planning meetings.

4. Business Arising and New Business

4.1 Lane Delineators on McNeely Dr. & Woodhead Rd.

The item was addressed in standing item 3.1 and Engineer Hingorani had no further comments.

4.2 Menstrual Equity Initiative

Director Fenwick provided an update on the program that provides free menstrual products in the city facilities. She noted that the program has been well received and that council approved funding in Budget 2023 for the program to continue.

4.3 Catchment Changes

Councillor Loo mentioned that she has received concerns from residents in the Hamilton area where secondary students are being bussed past Cambie Secondary over to McNair Secondary, and the environmental impact of driving an extra distance every day. She inquired if these concerns are being considered in the catchment review. Executive Director Geyer responded that the Hamilton area is part of the second phase of catchment boundary review which was paused due to the pandemic and noted that the process will be continued when the Board is ready to start the process.

4.4 Swimming Lessons and Water Safety Lessons

Councillor Loo inquired whether the School District was working with the City of Richmond to provide swimming lessons and water safety lessons to students. Assistant Superintendent Stanger responded that the School District collaborates with Richmond Aquatics to facilitate opportunities for swimming lessons.

Assistant Superintendent Stanger spoke about courses that are provided by Richmond Aquatics that teach water safety to elementary school students and informed the committee that certifications are provided for students who pass the swimming courses.

Discussion ensued with regard to funding support for students taking swimming courses, and it was highlighted that Richmond Aquatics provides a discount certificate for students and that funds are available within schools to offset costs for families in financial hardship. City staff also noted that another option for students and families is the recreation fees subsidy program provided by the city.

4.5 School Sport Fees

Councillor Loo noted that school sports should be an affordable option within schools and inquired whether there are any opportunities for the district to cover school sports fees through possible grants or programs. Assistant Superintendent MacMillan highlighted that the Student and Family Affordability Fund was provided by the Province to support students and families for school-based activities. Discussion ensued with regards to communication with parents on funding availability and the process for parents to request support from the schools.

4.6 Recognition of Swimming Credentials

The item was addressed in item 4.4 and Councillor Loo had no further questions.

5. Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates

The School District will be hosting the committee meetings in 2023. Future meeting dates will be discussed in the closed meeting.

6. Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:14 am.

CARRIED

