



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Place: Electronic meeting by teleconference
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Alexa Loo, Chair
Councillor Laura Gillanders, Vice-Chair
Trustee Donna Sargent

Also Present: Lorraine Anderson, City of Richmond
Elizabeth Ayers, City of Richmond
Evangel Biason, City of Richmond
Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond
Chris Duggan, City of Richmond
Todd Gross, City of Richmond
Jonathan Ho, Richmond School District No. 38
Rav Johal, Richmond School District No. 38
Robert Laing, Richmond School District No. 38
Keith Miller, City of Richmond
Maryam Naser, Richmond School District No. 38
Braunwyn Thompson, Richmond School District No. 38
Trustee Alice Wong

Call to Order: The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Chair advised the Agenda be amended as follows:

- (i) Item 5, Strategic Plan Update, be tabled and provided at a future meeting;
- (ii) Elementary School Track and Field Meets, be added as Item 8;
- (iii) Used Bikes, be added as Item 9; and
- (iv) Swim Lessons, be added as Item 10.

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AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of April 29, 2026, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on January 28, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS

1. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City staff briefed Committee on the March 26, 2026 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) meeting and activities, noting:

- (a) Public concern raised at the TSAC meeting with respect to speeding, traffic, and pedestrian safety near Errington Elementary School. In response, (i) installation of the requested stop sign took place within a few days, and (ii) a traffic study was undertaken which did not identify a speeding issue, however staff will be meeting with residents of Herbert Road at the end of May to discuss proposed traffic calming measures;
- (b) RCMP provided updates on initiatives and ongoing enforcement around school zones and February statistics for distracted driving enforcement;
- (c) Signage for the Council endorsed 30 km/h speed zones on local roadways and within school zones is underway; and
- (d) Other traffic calming engagements include Minler Road, where residents are requesting a sidewalk (a speed study was undertaken with results to come) and Glenn Allen Road.

A brief discussion ensued with respect to (i) the notification process for traffic concerns within school zones raised at TSAC, and (ii) the distribution (or anticipated distribution date) of the traffic safety postcards referenced at the January meeting.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal report on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting of March 26, 2026, and information provided with respect to Agenda Item 6, Speeding and Traffic Hazards Near Errington Elementary School, be received for information.

CARRIED

2.

2. CHILD CARE UPDATE

City staff reported (i) Mayor Brodie again declared May as Child Care Month in the City of Richmond, (ii) the City is hosting a child care symposium at City Hall on Saturday, May 2, 2026, with professional development opportunities for early childhood educators and child care providers, (iii) a children's art exhibition will be held at the Richmond Public Library Brighthouse branch during May, with the theme "I Feel Brave", supported with artwork submitted by 20 Richmond child care providers, and (iv) City and School District staff continue to meet regularly to coordinate child care opportunities and keep each organization informed.

School District staff reported that the Ministry of Education and Child Care will continue two more years of funding for staff members across the province in school districts that support expansion of child care. The District continues to focus on before and after school care, including (i) finalizing before and after school child care provider arrangements at the new City Centre Elementary School and McKay Elementary School, (ii) offering underutilized school spaces to third-party child care providers where space permits, and (iii) reviewing new Ministry capital funding opportunities for minor renovations to prepares spaces, particularly for before and after school care.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal report on Child Care be received for information.

CARRIED

3. JOINT CITY AND DISTRICT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

City staff advised the Joint City and District Program Committee (Program Committee) met on January 14, 2026, and provided a few highlights from that meeting, noting (i) the District's Community Schools programming connected with the City continues to grow, and for the current school year, diverse programs are being offered at four community centres through community associations at multiple school sites, (ii) the upcoming Kaiwo Maru tall ship visit includes a school group day on Monday, May 4, and has received strong uptake from Richmond school groups, (iii) Richmond Celebrates Soccer will take place during FIFA World Cup 26, with more than 1,000 Richmond elementary students, Grades 4 to 7, confirmed to attend a June 12, 2026 kickoff event at the Richmond Olympic Oval, and approximately 300 more students on a waitlist to attend the game portion, (iv) Richmond Public Library's Grade 8 library card campaign continues to support literacy, research skills and equitable access for students as they transition to their first year of high school, and (v) the Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031 and the Children's Arts Festival, held in mid-February (with participation from several elementary schools), was discussed.

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City staff further advised the recent Program Committee meeting was held on April 8, 2026, and that minutes from that meeting will be included in the next Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda package.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal report on the Joint City and District Program Committee be received for information.

CARRIED

4. LET'S TALK RICHMOND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

City staff provided an update on Let's Talk Richmond, the City's public engagement platform, where users can sign up to receive email notifications about major projects, initiatives and engagement opportunities. Current engagement opportunities include (i) a call for Veteran street banners, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion, to recognize Richmond veterans in the City Centre area from October to late November (suggestions of veterans open until May 24, 2026), and (ii) Council has approved a new initiative for an outdoor covered multi-use court initiative, with community input currently sought on programming priorities to inform facility design (engagement open until May 10, 2026).

The Committee agreed that going forward, this item will be reframed as Engagement Opportunities by both the City and the School District, allowing upcoming engagement activities to be shared.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on Let's Talk Richmond Public Engagement Opportunities be received for information.

CARRIED

AGENDA ITEMS

5. RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2026-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

Item 5 was tabled to a future meeting.

6. SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC HAZARDS NEAR ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Item 6 was addressed under Item 3.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

BUSINESS ARISING & NEW BUSINESS

8. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD MEETS

School District staff provided an overview of the changes to the elementary track and field meet format, noting the District remains committed to providing all elementary students with track meet opportunities, including continued participation in running, throwing and jumping events. Key points noted include (i) the number of track zone meets increased from six to eight for this year as a result of the support and partnership of the City for use of the track, throwing and jumping areas, (ii) the previous format resulted in long days where students participated in only a few events, whereas the revised format allows all students in Grades 4 to 7 to rotate through running, throwing, jumping, and break/cheering stations during the school day, (iii) the new format, piloted last year by four schools with success, is intended to align with the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum and District goals related to equity, inclusion, participation, physical literacy, confidence, fair play, teamwork and community, (iv) students may choose a competitive or recreational option for each event, (v) competitive participants may have times or measurements recorded by school staff, but the District will not compile district-wide result sheets, (vi) recreational participants may focus on participation and skill development without formal measurement, and (vii) no ribbons, medals or aggregate awards will be provided, however schools may continue to recognize student success and participation.

Discussion ensued with respect to questions raised regarding (i) how success is measured, (ii) how students choose competitive or recreational options, (iii) whether competitive achievement should be recognized, and (iv) how students with strong interest in track and field can pursue further opportunities.

District staff explained the elementary track meet is treated as an instructional day activity connected to curriculum, rather than an extracurricular competitive sport.

Further discussion ensued with respect to the importance of clear communication with parents and school leaders. District staff noted that parents should contact their school principal for available Q&A materials. A City representative recommended that the School District bring any significant program changes to the Program Committee in advance so the City can support alignment and communications where appropriate.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on elementary school track and field meets be received for information.

CARRIED

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9. USED BIKES

An update was provided related to the City's Recycling and Waste Management 2025 report, noting funding was approved by Council on April 27, 2026 for helmets and locks in conjunction with the City's bike reuse program so that students who receive repaired/recycled bikes can use their bikes safely and securely.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update bike helmets and locks for used bikes be received for information.

CARRIED

10. SWIM LESSONS

Concerns were raised regarding potential barriers to swim lesson participation and the impact on low-income students seeking to complete lifeguard training. It was noted that the City has been subsidizing 90% of lifeguarding course costs for students from low-income families, but some students have difficulty passing because they are not strong swimmers.

School District staff noted potential barriers to schools participating in swimming programs may include (i) transportation and bus costs, (ii) parent driver availability, (iii) school location, (iv) instructional time required for a full lesson set, and (v) curriculum planning considerations. It was then suggested that the issue be referred to the Program Committee for further discussion with school leaders.

City staff further noted that after-school programming may be worth exploring, although pool capacity and scheduling are already challenging.

The existing water safety program developed with the School District and aligned with the Physical and Health Education curriculum was highlighted, noting that over the past two school years the program has reached approximately 2,000 students at roughly 19 schools.

Committee members noted that water safety is valuable but distinct from swim skill development and that the issue will be added to the Program Committee agenda for further discussion, with City staff to share more information about the water safety program.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

September 9, 2026 (tentative date) at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (10:36 a.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the City of Richmond Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on April 29, 2026.

Councillor Laura Gillanders
Vice-Chair

Lorraine Anderson
Legislative Services Associate