



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026
- Place: Electronic meeting by teleconference
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Alexa Loo, Chair
Councillor Laura Gillanders, Vice-Chair
Trustee Heather Larson
Trustee Donna Sargent
- Also Present: Rebecca Clarke, City of Richmond
Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond
Marie Fenwick, City of Richmond
Todd Gross, City of Richmond
Sonali Hingorani, City of Richmond
Jonathan Ho, City of Richmond
Dorothy Jo, City of Richmond
Rav Johal, Richmond School District No. 38
Keith Miller, City of Richmond
Maryam Naser, Richmond School District No. 38
Kim Somerville, City of Richmond
Braunwyn Thompson, Richmond School District No. 38
Shannon Unrau, City of Richmond
Christopher Usih, Richmond School District No. 38
Cindy Wang, Richmond School District No. 38
Trustee Alice Wong
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

AGENDA ADDITION

The Chair advised that International Holocaust Remembrance Day be added to the agenda as Item No. 5A.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of January 28, 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 November 5, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS

1. **TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

City staff briefed Committee on Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) activities, noting (i) TransLink's presentation on TravelSmart4Kids Strategy – Metro Vancouver's strategy for schools to encourage active and sustainable modes of transportation for children aged 12 and under, including resources such as the School Neighbourhood Activation Playbook and (ii) ongoing enforcement efforts around school zones and the continued collaboration with Richmond RCMP regarding school zone safety initiatives to enhance safety in Richmond.

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that City staff are currently undertaking a traffic study on Garry Street and will be consulting with District staff and the community regarding traffic operations around McMath Secondary School.

Further discussion ensued regarding (i) the process for TransLink gathering feedback, including establishing working groups and reach out to members of the community and stakeholders, (ii) Learn2Ride, an introductory cycling course for grade 4-5 student through the City's partnership with HUB Cycling, including the delivery of the education program to Richmond elementary schools, and (iii) the focus of the safety tips on the school zone safety postcard, a collaborative initiative of TSAC.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal report on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee be received for information.

CARRIED

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

2. JOINT CITY AND DISTRICT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

City staff advised that the Program Committee continues to meet to collaborate on City and School District programs and initiatives, highlighting (i) school program opportunities at the Richmond Nature Park featuring BC's *Marvellous Mushrooms* exhibition, (ii) the rollout of this year's Grade 5 Active! Pass program, which provides Grade 5 students with free access to public swimming, skating, pitch & putt, and various drop-in programs at Richmond community centres, (iii) opportunities for Richmond students to participate in the upcoming Kaiwo Maru and Richmond Celebrates Soccer events, (iv) efforts to expand the Community Schools program to additional schools through partnerships with community centre associations, and (v) upcoming events, programs, and initiatives, including opportunities to collaborate and support Richmond's children and youth.

City staff advised that the next Joint City and District Program Committee meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026, and that minutes from the January 14, 2026 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

AGENDA ITEMS

3. FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO RECOGNIZE TOMEKICHI HOMMA AT HOMMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

City staff advised that following City Council's approval of a plaque design for the Steveston Japanese Canadian Museum, work is underway to install the plaque and to plan a related unveiling event in coordination with partners, with further information being shared as details are confirmed.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) the forthcoming launch of Jeff Chiba's graphic novel about Tomekichi Homma, (ii) education and additional steps to recognize Homma, and (iii) the partnership between the School District and City to support this initiative.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on Further Opportunities to Recognize Tomekichi Homma at Homma Elementary School be received for information.

CARRIED

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

4. **KAIWO MARU AND RICHMOND CELEBRATES SOCCER UPDATE**

City staff advised that the Kaiwo Maru Japanese tall ship visit is scheduled for May 2-4, 2026 at Garry Point Park, with a planned 2-day Ships to Shore festival that will include Japanese cultural programming, market, activities for children and families, and a day for education programming.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) engaging youth and (ii) how to best support and share the stories of the tall ship, including the possibility of tracking the ship's journey and connecting with the Japanese cadets.

City staff noted that the Richmond Celebrates Soccer program, taking place from June 11 to July 19, 2026 during the FIFA World Cup, will include a series of community programs and events in partnership with local associations, culminating in a signature event on July 19. Staff highlighted that the annual Richmond Community Celebration Grant Program has been expanded to include a Richmond Celebrates Soccer Grant component, providing funding opportunities for neighbourhoods and community organizations to host public events in celebration of the FIFA World Cup. Grant applications are due February 8, and the Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program will launch shortly.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on Kaiwo Maru and Richmond Celebrates Soccer be received for information.

CARRIED

5. **BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2025-2035)**

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file, City Clerk's Office), City staff presented the City's new Social Development Strategy, recently endorsed by Council on December 17, 2025.

Staff highlighted that the Strategy builds on the achievements of the previous plan and demonstrates the City's commitment to enhancing residents' well-being and fostering a more inclusive community. The Strategy sets out five strategic directions and 73 priority actions to guide the City's response to Richmond's social needs over the next 10 years, informed by feedback from over 1,200 community engagement responses.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) making reference to the governance of the public education system in Richmond, (ii) the City's numerous Council-adopted strategies and plans and the School District's involvement in the community engagement process, including involvement from the District's representative on the Social Development Strategy Advisory Committee, (iii) current projects available for online engagement via the Let's Talk Richmond website, and (iv) making the Strategy available to the public, including distribution to key partners and community organizations, relevant federal and provincial ministries, local Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, and posting on the City's website.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Further discussion ensued regarding adding relevant Let's Talk Richmond public engagement opportunities and the Richmond School District's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan to next Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda.

It was moved and seconded

That the presentation on “Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025-2035)” be received for information.

CARRIED

5A. INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Discussion ensued regarding (i) January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, designated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, (ii) the District's commitment to educating students on historical events and creating a safe, inclusive, and welcome environment, (iii) possible partnership and/or involvement with the City and School District, noting coordination at the District level as to streamline information and engagement opportunities, (iv) coordinating requests from other faith-based organizations, and (v) the Provincial government's implementation of Holocaust education in high school students' curriculum in British Columbia.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on International Holocaust Remembrance Day be received for information.

CARRIED

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved and seconded

That:

- (1) *Richmond School District's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan be added to the April 29, 2026 Open Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda; and*
- (2) *Let's Talk Richmond Public Engagement Opportunities be added to the April 29, 2026 Open Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda and subsequent open agendas as a Standing Item.*

CARRIED

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

April 29, 2026 (tentative date) at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (10:31 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 January 28, 2026.

Councillor Alexa Loo
Chair

Shannon Unrau
Legislative Services Associate
City Clerk's Office