

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021
AT 9:30 AM**

Via Zoom Webinar

Present: S. Nixon, Chairperson, School District #38
D. Tablotney, Vice Chairperson, School District #38
N. Goldstein, Trustee, School District #38
H. Larson, Trustee, School District #38
D. Sargent, Trustee School District #38
C. Au, Councillor, City of Richmond
A. Loo, Councillor, City of Richmond

S. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools, School District #38
R. Ryan, Deputy Superintendent, School District #38
R. Uyeno, Secretary Treasurer, School District #38
F. Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services, School District #38
R. Laing, Executive Director, Learning & Business Technologies, School District #38
D. Sadler, Director, Communications & Marketing, School District #38
R. Steward, Director of Instruction – Student Services, School District #38
W. Craig, Director, Planning & Development, City of Richmond
T. Gross, Director, Park Services, City of Richmond
D. Chan, Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Richmond
C. Duggan, Program Manager, City of Richmond
J. Caravan, Transportation Planner, City of Richmond
R. Gardner, Director, Bike Education, Hub Cycling
C. Cleary, Executive Assistant, Recording Secretary, School District #38
E. Biason, Legislative Services Associate, City of Richmond

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

1. ADOPT AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee Public Agenda for February 10, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPT MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Public Minutes of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting held on December 2, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. STANDING ITEMS

3.1 CHILD CARE UPDATE

The Program Manager, City of Richmond updated the Committee on the status of Richmond's childcare facilities noting the opening of River Run Child Care in the Bridgeport neighbourhood on February 9th with Minister Katrina Chen in attendance. River Run Child Care will provide 77 spaces of licensed childcare and is operated by Atira Women's Resources Society. There are also three childcare facilities currently in development and construction with one very close to completion, to open later this Spring.

Questions included what the current ratio of supply versus demand is. The Program Manager noted that data collected in late November and December 2020 indicates 30 spaces per 100 children so Richmond is not yet at a place in meeting the demand. The City is in the process of finalizing an update to the city's childcare needs assessment and a strategy that will be made public later this Spring.

Following questions regarding school rentals to child care operatives and if the pandemic has affected operations, District Executive Director, Facilities Services, reported that there have been no permanent closures but there were temporary closures due to a large drop in numbers last Spring. All Childcare providers are running if not at full, then partial capacity. The District is carefully monitoring the situation on future expansion with the current priority to accommodate learning while more classrooms are being utilized for health and safety distancing.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

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

CARRIED

3.2 TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Richmond provided an overview of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on January 20, 2021 noting the minutes were contained in the agenda package. The Manager noted that RCMP representation was absent due to a change in the representative. At future meetings there will be a new Chair and updates on the work initiated on improving traffic safety with the respective agencies. Details of this work will be presented at a Report to Council later this month and at the next Council Board Committee meeting. The Manager reported a new special pedestrian crosswalk on Shell Road at Thomas Kidd Elementary will be completed this Spring. Staff are regularly patrolling the school zones and working with school administration to address vehicle parking issues around schools.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on January 20, 2021 be received for information.

CARRIED

3.3 Future Agenda Items

The Chairperson asked if there were any items the Committee members would like added in future and noted that this item be moved to the end of the agenda for the next meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING & NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Strategic Plan

The Chairperson provided highlights of the Strategic Plan and an overview of what the Board of Education intends to focus on. The development of the Plan included a consultative process and at the onset, students consulted indicated the Plan should reflect student perspectives, priorities and their education. The Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in December, and was just released publicly this week. The Chairperson updated the Committee on accessing the Plan, available on the District Website, and in print with the District's five Strategic priorities.

Committee members asked if there were any new directions in the Plan and the Chair noted that among several areas there is a clear focus on anti-racism and diversity as well as environmental sustainability and climate change.

4.2 Hub Cycling

The Director of Bike Education at Hub Cycling spoke to the PowerPoint presentation that outlined the Cycling Education Program and its 20 year history in the Greater Vancouver area.

The Director then shared the program outline in Richmond schools called “Ride the Road”, a bike safety education program targeted to grades 6 & 7. The program focuses on in-class theory and bike maintenance, where students can tune up their bikes to ensure they are in good working order. The course also includes cycling skills on the school grounds to prepare for the neighbourhood road ride on a pre-planned route. Some real positive outcomes are a reported 42% increase in bike riding following the course.

Due to COVID-19, the Director noted some instruction needed to be modified with online course options to suit school changing protocols. Hub Cycling acknowledged City funding that will enable the program to continue in 2021 and will be offered in 19 elementary schools with almost 2,000 students participating. Online courses will continue to be offered and the Director outlined some additional courses that will be available thanks to funding from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Committee members had questions and comments on how positive and well received this program is in the community. The Chairperson thanked the City for the funding that will assist with expanding the program and encourage more bike riding in the City.

ACTION: The Superintendent will reach out to Hub Cycling with the District contact via email.

4.3 Education Week

The Director, Communications & Marketing, School District #38 provided highlights from his report that was included with the agenda package. The Director outlined the scheduled virtual events and activities planned for Education Week scheduled for February 22 – 26, 2021. The virtual platform will increase access equity and opportunity for all students including those in the Transitional Learning program. Teachers and students will be able to share a greater variety of their work in different formats including written word, photos, video and audio.

Additionally, there will be a direct connection to the curriculum through the lens of the Strategic Plan with each day of the week showcasing the Strategic priorities and goals including global citizenship and sustainability; equitable and inclusive learning; Indigenous perspectives; and learning through the arts. The Director concluded his report noting information on all events is available on the District website.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Education Week Report be received for information.

CARRIED

4.4 Update on Foundry

The Report and update on the Foundry was provided by the Director of Instruction, Student Services, School District #38. The Director reported that the Foundry has been in operation since July 2020 and that last week a permanent space for the organization was confirmed. The Director provided further information on Foundry Richmond and the Child & Youth Integrated Teams that have been allocated to Richmond. These two initiatives will work closely in planning, coordinating, and delivering supports to children and youth in the community. Both programs provide integrated and multidisciplinary team-based continuity of care for community-based child and youth health, mental health, sexual health, substance use, and social services.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Foundry Report be received for information.

CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:39 am.

CARRIED