

- May is Asian Heritage Month which is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about the many contributions of Canadians of Asian descent who throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the amazing country we share today. This month, teachers and students at different grade levels will engage in discussions about the many contributions of Asian Canadians. As a community of learners, it is critical that we embrace our diversity and celebrate what all members of our community bring to our city, our province and our country.

April has been Sikh Heritage Month in Canada and was first officially recognized by the Government of Canada in 2019. Its purpose is to celebrate the contributions and aspirations of all Sikh-Canadians and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of a rich, unique and diverse heritage. Sikhs have been in BC for over 100 years, and this is an opportunity to showcase their contribution to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the province. This month learners of all ages have been learning about the contributions of Sikh Canadians.

Asian Heritage Month and Sikh Heritage Months opens the door not only to conversations about the significant contributions of Asian and Sikh Canadians, but also to the impacts of racism, and our commitment to ensure the Richmond School District is a safe and respectful place for all members of our community.

- The Richmond School District recognizes the Canadian Mental Health's Association's 70th 'Mental Health Week' taking place May 3rd to 9th. Initiatives in our secondary schools will focus on building awareness, including additional mental health resources for libraries and a student assembly with NHL legend Theo Fleury. These initiatives are complemented by the District's Foundations of a Healthy Workplace, which has an ongoing focus on and include program offerings that support our staff's health and well-being, including mental health and well-being.

- on behalf of the Board, thanks were extended to the Richmond Mandarin Lions and Michael Chang for the generous donation of 150,000 masks for staff and students.

(c)

The Secretary Treasurer noted that a Budget Brief from CUPE 716 President Ian Hillman was received on April 26, 2021 and posted on the District Website.

The Chair noted that a Budget Brief from CUPE 716 President Ian Hillman would be presented under Item 3 (c) Briefs.

the Wednesday, March 31, 2021 Regular agenda of the Board of

(a)

Nil.

(b)

Nil.

(c)

The Chairperson noted that the Budget Briefs as noted from Richmond Teachers' Association and CUPE 716 would be presented under Item 6 (a) Committee of the Whole on April 2, 2021.

Budget Brief Response received on April 23, 2021, from Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teacher's Association;

Budget Brief Response received on April 26, 2021, from Ian Hillman, President, CUPE 716

(d)

Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association asked if there will be further advocacy to the Ministry of Education in the area of funding. Ms. Baverstock noted that health & safety protocols in place in schools need to be maintained for the safe return to schools in the Fall. Ms. Baverstock also asked that communication with the District continue to remain open regarding staff, timelines and the *Welcome Back* to students in September.

The Chairperson noted that there were two Advocacy motions for consideration on the agenda. The Superintendent responded that the District is in complete agreement on health and safety protocols to remain in place and that will continue to be a priority. The School District remains committed to working alongside the RTA in being flexible and in regular communications.

The Superintendent of Schools presented an update on COVID-19 school exposures with just over 50 by the end of April. While the numbers have increased, the Superintendent noted that the good news is that there is still no evidence of community transmission.

The Secretary Treasurer then provided further details on the Projected 2020-2021 Unrestricted Fund Balance where the District will end the year with fund balances of approximately \$9.8 million. These Unrestricted fund balances may be appropriated

7. A member of the community provided background to her role within the School District as an EA consultant that is one of the proposed positions to be cut. A detailed overview of her position, who she supports and works with and the students she impacts was shared.

Trustees thanked the EA consultant for the detailed overview on the position and how the work contributes to the District.

8. Dionne McFie, Past President of the RDPA

Ms. McFie asked about the Diversity and Anti-racism Working Group and the upcoming audit process within the District. Ms. McFie noted that the RDPA does not support the position of Administrator.

The Deputy Superintendent thanked Ms. McFie for her comments and responded with some information on the role as also collaborating with the Indigenous Equity and Action area in focus groups, survey data collection and processes that will identify areas that require attention to policy analysis and the education side as well. A number of school districts in the province have identified a need in this area and have dedicated personnel. The Deputy Superintendent reinforced that this is a much more expansive piece and critical area of priority for the Board in terms of the Strategic plan.

9. A District employee provided background on the work he has done over the past nine years. He noted that having a child on the Autism spectrum presents challenges and RTA and CUPE staff there to help and support his child in school is essential. As a staff member I see how clean the schools are with extra custodial staff and appreciate staff delivering front line end essential services to students. Thank you.
10. A District EA asked for the International Program be suspended for the time being with the pandemic affecting the enrollment.
11. A member of the community asked about the socio-emotional health of students and who are they being supported.

Trustees thanked all the stakeholders, employees and members of the public who came forward with excellent points, noting all are important positions within the District. Every budget cut is a hard decision to make, and staff and the Board will do their best to gather as much feedback and information prior to final budget decisions.

Following the briefs presentations, there were questions and comments from Trustees. The Superintendent turned the Chair over to Trustee Nixon.

Trustee Sandra Nixon assumed the Chair and presented the following motion:

Trustee Sandra Nixon thanked participants and presented the following motion:

the Board of Education (Richmond) refer all Stakeholder and public input and feedback to the budget process.

(a)

the Board of Education (Richmond), together wit

(i) Trustee Expenses ending at March 31, 2021

059

the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) is paying for expenses incurred by the Trustees in the discharge of their duties,

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 March 31, 2021, in the amount of \$870.00.

(ii) Minutes of the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) for the month of March 2021, pages 1 through 5, showing a total of \$870.00 in trustee expenses.