

Richmond District Parents Association
Tuesday May 6, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Location:

In person Location : Richmond School District Board Room 1st floor, 7811 Granville Ave

1. Welcome and Introductions (Connie)

- 20+ attendees in person

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- Meeting agenda was presented and adopted with no objections (Noel / Kevin C).

3. Land Acknowledgement (Ainsley)

4. Adoption of the Minutes from previous meeting (April 8, 2025)

- Meeting minutes from Mar 8, 2025 were accepted with no objections (Mathew E / Kevin C)

5. Annual General Meeting

- Voting cards provided: 18
 - Quorum achieved
 - Balance of RDPA/School votes adheres to bylaw 14
- Changes required to Member At Large Options to address typos in voting sheets: Removed Connie Huang and Jarrod Connolly and added Colleen Howu.
- Voting tabulation was managed by Jody N and scrutineered by Noel E and G.Y..
- Announcement of Nominations and candidate statements
- Results:
 - President - Acclaimed - Connie Huang
 - Vice President - Acclaimed - Andrea Gong
 - Secretary - Acclaimed - Dean Billings
 - Treasurer - Elected - Colleen Howu
 - Member at Large - Elected:
 - Vicky Lin
 - Monica Zhou
 - Nicole Zhou
 - Susan Deng
 - Tiffany Lee
 - Kevin Ching
- All the new exec team members accepted their new role.

6. Sharing of Information from SD38 Committee Meetings (w/Karina)

- Karina shared concerns about information-sharing practices within RDPA:
 - Recalled past collaboration with the Richmond School District and expressed disappointment in recent censorship.
 - Cited an example where RDPA declined to distribute information from Vancouver Coastal Health regarding the Foundry program, a support group for queer and trans students.
 - Argued that RDPA should not censor content from public health or the school district, even if individuals disagree with the values presented.
 - Emphasized that elected board members represent all parents and must distribute information relevant to student well-being.
 - Expressed concern over fractured relationships between RDPA and the district due to communication issues and exclusionary practices.
- Dean noted the following:
 - He was disappointed that the information in question was shared to the RDPA inbox only a few hours ahead of the April meeting, and that the subsequent threats of escalation and media contacts were not collaborative.
 - RDPA inbox receives such emails from various political organizations and causes and not all have been forwarded to RDPAs various social media platforms.
 - The counsellor hosting the Foundry BC sessions runs a private practice from the same address.
- Connie noted the following:
 - The program in question is for students. The district has been clear in the past that these sorts of programs do not involve parents, so it was not clear why RDPA needed to forward this to PACs.
 - The RDPA aims to share information transparently but must do so through internal consensus and process.
- Clarification was sought on whether PACs are *required* to share all information received or whether it's optional. It was clarified that there is no formal bylaw requiring mandatory sharing of committee information from RDPA to PACs or parents.
- A parent suggested allowing each PAC to decide for themselves what to share with their school community.
- A parent suggested establishing a process or policy for distributing community resources to all PACs.
- A parent raised a concern that if RDPA shares district information (e.g., related to SOGI or youth counseling) without proper context or clarity, it may be perceived as an endorsement by individual parents.
- Action: Chair to consult the executive on establishing a protocol or committee for information sharing from RDPA reps to PACs or social media.

7. Other Business

- A parent requested that a link to the RDPA constitution be shared in meeting minutes.
- Ken Hamaguchi shared an update on the budget process.
- A request was made for a future RDPA meeting to include a presentation about updates to the Complaints Policy, perhaps in September.

