



Richmond Teachers' Association

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April 23, 2021

Via E-Mail

Board of Education
School District No.38 (Richmond)
7811 Granville Avenue
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 3E3

Dear Trustees,

Re: RTA Budget Brief - Response to RSD Potential Budget Consideration

On behalf of the Richmond Teachers' Association, we thank you for the opportunity to submit a subsequent budget brief in response to the proposed or potential budget adjustments for the 2021-2022 District budget. This response is a supplement to the RTA's brief that was submitted and spoken to at the March 31, 2021 Richmond Board of Education Meeting.

RTA Recommendations to the Proposed 2021/22 RSD Budget

A. Changes to the Proposed Use of Surplus and Reserve – add \$2,000,000

1. Add \$1,000,000 from the COVID Contingency Reserve as a one-time budget adjustment.
2. Add \$1,000,000 from Surplus Funds as a one-time budget adjustment.
3. Reserve \$1,000,000 from the COVID Contingency Reserve to address unexpected budget needs related to the pandemic including any bridge programs or health and safety concerns that may need to be added during the 2021/22 school year.

Note: The COVID Contingency Reserve did not exist in March 2020. This money was added and identified for COVID contingencies.

B. Trustee Led Advocacy - Engage in joint advocacy with all stakeholders to seek additional funding from the Provincial and Federal government to address unique needs and challenges related to the pandemic.

C. Changes to the Proposed Budget Reductions - \$1,075,000 – add back

1. Reduce cuts to non-enrolling teachers to 2.0 FTE (unfilled) – add back \$770,000
2. Reduce cuts to District and School Based Administrators to 0.5 FTE – add back \$305,000

Note: Inspired Learners and action to address Equity and Inclusion requires teachers to be inspired and supported through professional learning, training, mentoring, innovation, and School Based Administrators. The RTA understands that some non-enrolling positions may need changes to the current job descriptions in order to provide support for Inspired Learners and Equity Inclusion and the objectives of the Board's Strategic Plan.

Note: The Board must ensure that the 8.4 FTE of enrolling teachers does not result in a staffing cut. The District has expressed these teachers can be maintained through the Classroom Enhancement Fund. A cut of 8.4 FTE will impact opportunities for students and class size.

D. Changes to Proposed Additions - \$990,000 – further addition

1. Add 24 FTE to the 8.0 FTE CUPE for a total of 32 FTE to address Health and Safety in Schools - \$750,000
2. Add 2.4 FTE to RTA secondary enrolling to support low enrollment in specific courses - \$240,000

E. Changes to Proposed Addition - \$144,000 savings

1. Add 1.0 FTE District Administrator Equity and Inclusion but remove 1.0 FTE District Administrator position – net savings \$144,000

Note: The RTA does not support adding a District Administration position in the context of school and district staffing cuts. The RTA agrees that a specific leadership position is required to support Equity and Inclusion and the objectives of the Board's Strategic Plan.

RTA Net Proposed Changes

Additional funds from surplus and contingency	= \$2,000,000
Additional spending (add back, additions)	= (\$2,065,000)
<u>Savings</u>	<u>= \$ 144,000</u>

F. Potential Use for Remaining COVID Contingency Reserve \$1,000,000 – 10 FTE RTA

1. Additional elementary FTE to support unique and additional learning needs
2. Additional elementary FTE to address potential enrollment challenges and possible bridge programs

Note: At present, families are requesting continued learning from home options. If these options involve Distributed Learning, it means each student that opts to learn from home will be funded at 20 % less than a student attending their neighbourhood school. Though a DL program may cost less to operate, any loss of funding will impact staffing. The RTA has significant concerns in terms of recruitment, retention, and school stability if the government does not provide additional funds to support these continued pandemic needs. The RTA requests that trustees engage in joint advocacy to address funding concerns if the Board decides to add a bridge DL program next year.


Further, the Board must maintain their focus on encouraging children to return to in-person learning by ensuring schools are safe and welcoming in September.

The RTA continues to recognize the long-standing challenges presented to the Board with creating a balanced budget. These challenges should be addressed by the Provincial Government with additional funding and all parties must commit to our continued advocacy for the learners of Richmond.

Schools remain fully open in BC because this is a priority for the BC government – that has been a clear and consistent message through the pandemic. It is time the Provincial Government proves their commitment to public education with additional funding to address long-standing and systemic underfunding as well as identified pandemic needs.

The RTA welcomes all opportunities to provide feedback and engage in joint advocacy with the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liz Baverstock', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liz Baverstock
President, RTA

cc: Scott Robinson, Superintendent of Schools
Roy Uyeno, Secretary Treasurer
Tim McCracken, 1st VP, RTA
Steve Wenglowski, 2nd VP, RTA
JW Cho, 3rd VP, RTA