

Dear Fellow PAC Members,

As we are fast approaching the upcoming Municipal Election I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to research all candidates and to make the time to vote in this years election. RDPA alongside RTA (Richmond Teachers Association), CUPE 716(Canadian Union of Public Employees) and RASA (Richmond Association of School Administrators) will be hosting an All Candidates meeting on Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm-9:30pm, at Burnett Secondary School. We encourage all Parents to come out to hear the candidates speak that are running for the seven positions available for School Trustee.

For at least the next decade in the Richmond School District we will be facing seismic upgrading to the majority of our school buildings. As well CUPE has just begun contract negotiations and next year RTA will begin their provincial and local bargaining. Bargaining could possibly face challenges or bring about disruption to the school routine again. We need to make sure those who serve as School Trustees have a strong understanding how our school communities currently function and can handle the issues that come about when tackling such important matters.

As Parents in this district we will want our voices represented by our elected Trustees and need to make sure we are choosing strong, knowledgeable candidates to stand up for our concerns and understand the importance of our children's learning throughout these processes. RDPA ( Richmond District Parents' Association ) as one of the 6 stakeholder groups in this District has worked on many district committees, policies, attended conferences alongside the other stakeholders and regularly attend Public School Board Meetings to ensure we stay on top of the regular business that effects our school system.

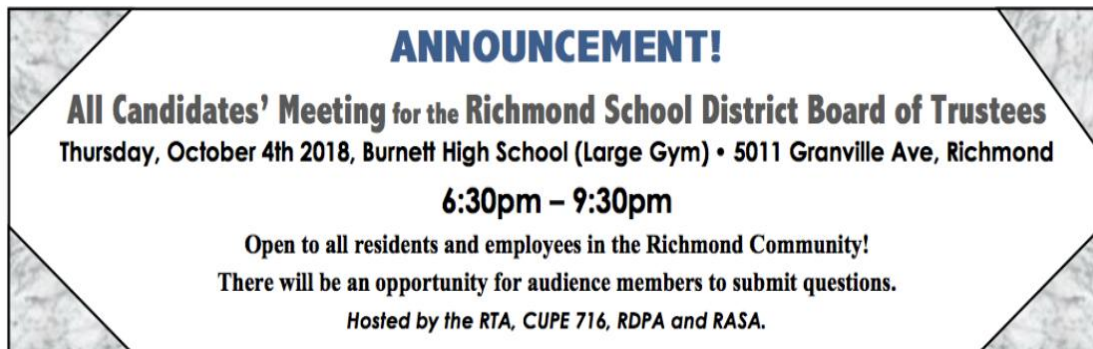
This election we are super proud to announce that two of our RDPA Executive members will be running for School Trustee. They are running with the Richmond Education Party and I am so pleased that we are putting forth two worthy, passionate and invested individuals to represent parent voices.

Andrew Scallion, who is currently our Vice President in his third year with the RDPA, has also been actively involved in William Bridge PAC for 7 years. His invested interest and knowledge will serve him well if elected as School Trustee. I have had the honour to work alongside him for 4 years and know he will be great for this role.

Karina Reid, who is an RDPA Executive member at Large, joined our group last year and brought forward her passion for emergency preparedness. She is working diligently with RDPA and the District to improve the education in this area amongst staff and PACs and is working hard to ensure all schools in Richmond have the necessary emergency supplies, regardless of whether their PAC can fund such items. Karina has been a great asset to our team and continues to tackle any issues that are asked of her wholeheartedly.

I wish both Andrew and Karina best of luck in the upcoming election and hope individuals see their strengths and dedication to this District as I do. They would be valuable additions to the Richmond Board of Education.

Sincerely,  
Dionne McFie – RDPA President



Andrew Scallion for Board of Education Trustee  
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Karina Reid  
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