



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

Council/Board Liaison Committee Public Minutes

**Tuesday, DECEMBER 11, 2007
9:30 a.m.**

School District Administration Building
4th Floor Board Room

Present: School Trustee Donna Sargent, Chair
School Trustee Linda McPhail
Councillor Linda Barnes*
Councillor Derek Dang

Also Present: T. Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning
D. Semple, Director, Parks & Public Works Operations
W. Mercer, Manager, Community Bylaws
V. Jacques, Manager, Programs and Projects*
B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools
M. Pamer, Associate Superintendent
K.L. Morris, Secretary Treasurer
K. Littlewood, Executive Secretary, SD 38
*Not present at the start of the meeting

Call to Order: The Chair called the open meeting to order at 9:35 am

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, December 11, 2007, be adopted as amended.

Move item 4.1 Community Literacy Plan forward

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair asked for Introductions of all those present.

Item 4.1 moved to this point in the agenda

4.1 Community Literacy Plan

Associate Superintendent Pamer advised that the intent of the plan is Community Literacy. School districts have been charged with bringing coherence to the project for the community partners. She went on to comment on the demographics of the community and how this plan affects them.

To date three meetings with community partners have taken place and a list of participants was provided. Ms. Pamer commented that by maximizing assets together maximizes the impact for the community. A database of community literacy initiatives has been created and the various funding grants that have been applied for was discussed.

City representation on the committee is still open but options have been discussed. Trustees suggested sending a letter formally inviting a representative from the City to join the committee.

Many social agencies are involved in the project and the importance of bringing everyone together was noted. It was explained that increased access and communication are key elements to the program.

Mr. Crowe provided that RCSAC is doing a comprehensive survey of what is happening in the community. There was discussion of the grant money the program has received, what it is intended for and if there is a strategic or implementation plan for new money. Ms. Pamer provided that grant money received to date is for start-up only.

The comment was made that there appeared to be a lack of participation by churches. Mr. Semple will forward contact information to the committee in this regard. It was noted that the list is growing and awareness is key.

The Chair expressed concern with the amount of start up funds and the ability to sustain the group given the limited funding. The implementation of the project was discussed as well as sustainability dollars required for this project.

Councillor Barnes joined the meeting at 9:50 am

The Superintendent anticipates that the question of free access to schools will eventually be asked. He went on to say that at one time money was provided by the government for schools to allow this to happen but that is no longer the case. The example of the Burnaby School District was provided.

Councillors had questions about late literacy initiatives in the workplace and what is being offered. In January there will be a regional meeting to look at various districts and what other areas are doing in this regard.

Vern Jacques joined the meeting at 10:05 am.

Trustees explained that the BCSTA Education Committee previously discussed the business community and late literacy.

Associate Superintendent Pamer departed the meeting at 10:10 am

3.1 Fees for Playing Fields and Grass Cutting/Block Booking Arrangement

Mr. Semple explained there is nothing new to add since the previous meeting. Fees charged for playing fields would go to a fund for capital projects to sustain and improve assets. Fees for school playing fields would fall under the same model with the funds going back to the Board in this case.

Trustees explained public concerns and the appearance the public was being charged twice. It was explained that local taxes do not cover all playing field maintenance costs and a fee would help with the upkeep. Sporting groups are aware of this. A higher level of service would be provided.

Trustees explained that while the District's Sports Director was aware of previous talks, he does not represent the Board. Mr. Semple explained that if the Board did not approve the fees the City would still charge fees for its playing fields.

There was discussion on what fields are currently being charged fees.

The grass cutting maintenance agreement was discussed and trustees asked for clarity. Mr. Semple provided what constituted maintenance and explained that approximately \$12,000 in fees would be collected for Board capital.

Mr. Semple explained that the Sports Alliance groups in Richmond originally brought forward the idea of fees being charged for fields, and noted this was not a City initiative.

The City would administer the fee process and provide information to the District. There was a question concerning increasing the fees over time and user pay fees. Mr. Semple noted the sensitivity of increasing fees.

Councillors noted the BIA (Business Improvement Area) and these fees attempt to address this. It was explained that a financial support system has been built into the system for those children who are not able to afford fees. Sports participation rates have increased due to the improved facilities in the community.

Trustees asked about other communities and what their expenses are. Mr. Semple explained that this community model includes both improvement and capital funding, and that "every child can play".

Superintendent Beairsto departed the meeting at 10:30 am.

The City will wait for the Board's reply and noted full implementation by the City will go forward in January 2008.

3.2 Banning Tobacco and Smoking in Public Places and Schools

Mr. Mercer provided background to Bill 10 and how this impacts school grounds. The City is going to stakeholders and staff and working with the Chamber of Commerce and Richmond Centre to implement the new regulations that come into effect March 31, 2008. Indoor workplaces are currently covered and include vehicles and people working from home.

Since September 1, no complaints have been received regarding smoking at schools. The Government would like signage placed at schools and that has been left to individual schools to look after.

Mr. Semple provided that more of a campaign will be implemented within the sports community.

3.3 City Centre Area Plan Demographic Study

Mr. Crowe noted that the City consultant will provide more information to Mr. Morris in this area.

Mr. Mercer departed the meeting at 10:40 am.

Mr. Morris remarked about a recent meeting with Urban Futures and the difference between their projections for 2006 and the school district's.

The specificity of the District's projections was recognized by Councillors who suggested City staff use Mr. Morris's information.

Trustees and Councillors are pleased that City and District Staff are working together on this.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Community Literacy Plan

Moved to earlier in the agenda

4.2 Sale of Kilgour Elementary Site

The Secretary Treasurer provided background on ministerial orders and board policy pertaining to the disposal of land. The Board advised the Ministry of Education that Kilgour was a surplus property and it was determined by the Ministry that there was not a match for the sale of the property. Therefore the site is to be offered to local government for fair market value.

Councillors were concerned that this was not a match with the Francophone Authority.

The "Old Mitchell" site was determined by the Ministry of Education as being a match with BC Housing and has directed district staff to enter into discussions with BC Housing concerning its sale.

There was discussion of the current zoning of the Kilgour site.

4.3 South McLennan Properties – Re-Designation Process and Ministerial Order 233/07

Information was provided concerning a meeting with city staff, the Mayor and Trustees who determined that a consultant will be hired to help with the re-designation process of South McLennan.

Closer consultation will be required and Mr. Crowe commented how this would affect the OCP designations. Earlier and better sharing of information will be a benefit.

Trustees noted that the District does not typically hire a consultant but that it was warranted in this case. Help from Councillors and City staff in this process would be appreciated by the Board.

Mr. Morris noted that the minutes of the reconstituted Land Committee will be brought forward to this committee.

Mr. Crowe reiterated the usefulness of detailing surplus district land to the City and the importance of gaining a larger perspective in this case.

4.4 Snow Geese on City and Board Lands

Mr. Semple and Mr. Morris have been in discussions on this matter. The City has contacted the Canadian Wildlife Association concerning a cull.

There is currently a local based program to move the geese south. A significant cull is what is required.

The Secretary Treasurer provided information on a Work Safe BC report and spoke to the serious health effect to students and school staff in regard to this matter.

It was determined that a letter of support from the Board for the City to forward to the Canadian Wildlife Association would be helpful.

5. JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT / STANDING ITEMS

(This is now a standing item for reporting on the City School District Joint Management Committee)

5.1 Joint School District / City Management Committee

Councillors commented on the importance of continuing this item as a standing item.

5.2 LAND - City School Land Planning Committee

City of Richmond School Board Land Liaison Group
Mr. Crowe to sit on this committee.

5.3 PROGRAMS

The Chair noted that Olympic opportunities are being discussed at this committee. Trustees are meeting again in January and appreciate the information that City staff have provided in this regard

It was noted that Eric Thorleifson has been appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE).

Mr. Jacques commented on the number of programs that are currently ongoing.

6. INFORMATION / STANDING ITEMS

6.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule

The Secretary Treasurer noted the Steveston London project would be the first sustainability gold project site. This project is ongoing and it is hoped to be completed early in the New Year.

It was reported that the MacNeill site is nearly finished; the District is attempting to replace Brighthouse school; Garden City has 6 portables being placed on the site; and McKinney and Ferris have ongoing building envelope issues.

6.2 2010 - City's Olympic Planning Committee

Mr. Young was not present at the meeting.

The Chair noted meetings are taking place monthly and stressed the importance of working together.

6.3 City Centre Area Plan

The City is hoping to get this finalized in the spring. Public consultation on some of the highlights of the area plan and implementation strategy will be forthcoming.

6.4 LAND - OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy

Mr. Crowe and Mr. Morris will discuss and the importance of meeting was stressed.

The location of a new elementary school in City Centre would fall under this jurisdiction. Mr. Crowe noted legal clarification on placement of a new school.

There can be no discussion of the Garden City lands due to ongoing legal issues.

The impact of seven walkways and schools was noted by Mr. Dang. He asked about consultation with the District and it was confirmed that there was consultation of the transit plan of the CCAP. Mr. Crowe noted that the City has budgeted for special treatment when children cross arterials.

There was discussion on Translink changing its operation and the effect this has on children. It was noted that a copy of this plan has been sent to the District and a conversation took place with Translink and Trustees.

It was noted a meeting took place with Planning Department staff and a letter was sent from the Board to Council on arterials. The Board has requested funding for an elementary school in City Centre.

There have been discussions on moving school buses to another area in Richmond. The Sidaway area was suggested.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to move to the City next year. Councillors would like to wait until the GVRD sets their appointments before selecting a future date.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn at 11:35 am