



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Tuesday, January 22nd, 2002
- Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Councillor Lyn Greenhill
School Trustee Sandra Bourque
School Trustee Gerry Retallick
- Also Present: C. Volkering Carlile, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Administration & Programs
J. Beran, Planner, Urban Development
C. Kelly, Superintendent (entered at 1:50 p.m.)
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
F. J. Ashton, Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 1. It was moved and seconded
That the agenda for the closed meeting of Tuesday, January 22nd, 2002, be adopted with an amendment to as Item No. 4.5 – Sister City.
CARRIED

MINUTES

- 2. It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Committee held on Tuesday, November 27th, 2001, be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

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3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 **Richmond Task Force on Drugs and Crime**

(Memo: Jan. 14/02; File No.: 0100-20-DCRI1)

Reference was made to the correspondence included in the agenda package (dated December 4th, 2001, and addressed to the members of the Richmond Task Force on Drugs and Crime), and information was provided on a meeting to be held with the Committee on February 1st, 2002. Advice was given that at that meeting, the members would be thanked for their participation in the Task Force and told that the Task Force was being disbanded and that the City was proceeding to the next step, that being the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Municipal Drug Strategy.

Discussion ensued among Committee members on whether public education would be a priority and how the School District would be able to participate in the new strategy. Advice was given that the School District was interested in working with the City on ways which would involve children and education on drug and alcohol abuse, as it was the view of the District that the early education of students on how to prevent drug and alcohol abuse problems resulted in less intervention, criminal court activities and policing.

As a result of the discussion, the suggestion was made that a report be placed on the agenda for the next Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting on the FCM strategy and how education would fit within that strategy.

3.2 **Tall Ships Initiative**

(Memo: Jan. 14/02; File No.: 7400-20-TALL1))

Mr. Morris advised that following the adoption of the resolution by the Board of School Trustees to work with the City to investigate opportunities to work together on the Tall Ships event, he had met briefly with the Acting Director, Operations, Dave Semple to discuss the matter further.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on such matters as:

- the proposal of retired teachers who wished to undertake an education project as part of the Tall Ships event
- the feasibility of using school buses and providing additional parking in Steveston area school yards
- the feasibility of allowing young people to sail from Japan to Richmond as trainees
- the pre-selling of tickets

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- the Tall Ships programs being prepared by the Britannia Heritage Shipyard and Museum and the feasibility of presenting this program in schools during the school year, and then putting it on display in Steveston during the actual event.

During the discussion, the comment was made that a working group was required because of the fact that with the event taking place in August, school administrators and teachers would not be available, and it would be necessary to coordinate efforts to ensure that the Tall Ships event took place without incident. A further suggestion was made by Mr. Morris that he could provide notice of the event community wide to allow sufficient time for administrators and teachers and other volunteers to plan their vacation time around the event.

Reference was made to the proposed working group and advice was given that a preliminary discussion should be held with City staff to determine the process to be followed, and the School District would then synchronize their efforts with that process. Concern was expressed however that discussion should commence soon as many teachers and administrators had already made their vacation plans. The comment was also made that there could be possible teacher job action to contend with.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 **Bullying Paper** (Memo: Jan. 14/02)

Mr. Morris spoke briefly on the paper prepared by the School District to address 'bullying', not only in school yards but also in the community. He explained that this matter was on the agenda for the information of the Committee and the City.

Advice was given that the intention of the paper was to encourage people to talk about bullying, and to provide information on the resources and programs which were available to address this problem. Reference was made to the City's community centres and the bullying problems which occurred at these facilities, and the comment was made that it would be beneficial to have consistency between the School District and the City when dealing with the problem.

Discussion continued on the subject of bullying and the mixed messages which children were getting about appropriate behaviour. The suggestion was made during the discussion that the on-going orientation program with Parks and Recreation front counter staff could be broadened to include information on resources and strategies which were available to staff to deal with bullies and their victims. In concluding the discussion, the comment was made that the paper provided many opportunities for the School District and the City to work together to address bullying.

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4.2 Extra-curricular Student Activities

(Memo: Jan. 14/02)

Reference was made to the current job action being undertaken by teachers and to the impact which this action was having on extra-curricular student activities. Information was provided by Mr. Morris that as a result of a presentation made to the School Board by a parent/volunteer at McMath Secondary to provide free after-hours access of school gymnasiums to community groups, the School Board had adopted a resolution to allow school age children to have access to school facilities as long as the teams, clubs or groups did not represent themselves as being supported or endorsed by any specific school or the School District.

During the discussion which ensued, advice was given that the School District was being urged to review its policy to determine if it was necessary to have a teacher supervise extra-curricular activities. It was noted that one area of objection, liability, had been answered by the Schools Protection Branch; however, the second issue, the undertaking of police records checks on volunteers to ensure the safety of the students would be more difficult to resolve. Advice was given that the matter had been referred to the District's Personnel & Finance Committee to consider whether the policy should be changed.

Reference was made to the negative impact which the teacher's job action was having on the number of school trips to the Nature Park, and questions were raised about the feasibility of re-initiating the trips with the Nature Park staff assuming the duties of the teachers. As a result of the discussion which ensued on this matter, Gerry Retallick asked that the proposal be submitted in writing to the School District, indicating that the Nature Park staff would be prepared to collect the trip fees. Further advice was given that the final decision on participation in the field trip would lie with the teacher.

Reference was made to the decision of the School Board to allow volunteers to book school facilities, and concern was raised about the possibility of 'double booking'. In response, advice was given that the bookings would occur during what would have been 'school team' time, and was intended to allow those extra-curricular activities which required teacher supervision to continue without such supervision.

Concern was voiced about the perception that community groups could be seen to be taking advantage of a labour situation, and discussion ensued on long term issues which could arise if the teachers' job action was not resolved.

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Also discussed were such matters as (i) undertaking criminal records checks on volunteers to determine whether they would be suitable to work with children; (ii) the possibility that new user groups could be created which would require facility time and space to function once the job action had ended; (iii) volunteers, including their function and relationship to, and support of, extra-curricular school activities and the subsequent impact on these activities as a result of the current teacher job action, especially if school districts were required to cover the cost of having to pay teachers to supervise these activities; and (iv) the need to work together to develop a strategy to address volunteer management/usage utilization.

4.3 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

(Memo: Jan. 14/02)

Mr. Morris advised that the minutes were on the agenda to draw to the Committee's attention, the discussions which took place between the City's Traffic Department and the School District to resolve traffic issues. He spoke highly of the work of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, stating that generally, the majority of problems were resolved to the satisfaction of all at the staff level.

A brief discussion ensued, during which Councillor Greenhill expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee to resolve problems satisfactorily. Reference was made to the traffic congestion occurring at T. K. Homma Elementary School, and advice was given that the matter had been directed to a sub-committee to reach a solution to the problem.

(Supt. Chris Kelly entered the meeting – 1:50 p.m.)

4.4 Grass Cutting/Block Booking Arrangements

(Memo: Jan. 14/02)

Mr. Morris advised that he was meeting with his staff to plan grass cutting and block booking arrangements for 2002. He stated that, based on previous discussions regarding the upcoming Tall Ships event, that these operations should be planned with this event in mind. Mr. Morris further stated that he would like to meet with the City to coordinate activities. Discussion ensued, during which it was agreed that Mike Redpath would attend the meetings with the School District on this matter.

Concern was expressed by Mr. Redpath that community associations have been arranging programs in the schools, assuming that the facilities were available, which resulted in the City trying to find other locations to hold its programs.

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Reference was made to direction given at the previous meeting about notifying adult groups that they were not entitled to affiliation status. Advice was given that a check list was being sent out and a survey of user groups undertaken, and that it was hoped that a report on the matter would be submitted to the next meeting.

4.5 Sister City

Discussion ensued among Committee members on upcoming Sister City activities and whether or not these events would have the support of the teachers. Information was provided on a delegation coming from Wakayama, Japan in May of this year, and advice was given that preparations would have to be made to provide lodging (home stays), extra-curricular activities, etc., for the visitors and volunteers found to provide assistance. Advice was given by Councillor Greenhill (Council's representative to the Sister City Committee) that the Committee was assuming that the visitors would have places to stay and that the school would still be undertaking the arrangements for those home stays. Concern was expressed that assumptions should not be made that home stays would be provided.

Discussion ensued on the need to (i) ensure that nothing occurred which would jeopardize the relationship between the City and Wakayama, Japan; and (ii) address short and long term issues, i.e. with respect to short term – the quality of the stay in May and what the City would be asked to assume responsibility for; and long term – how would restructuring occur, if that became necessary. As well, Cllr. Greenhill advised that the Sister City Committee wanted information on the situation with the schools as that Committee was not involved with that issue.

Comments were made during the discussion that without teacher participation, it would be almost impossible to offer a worthwhile program as teachers would normally be involved with money collection, etc., and that other options would have to be considered. It was also noted that it was becoming more difficult to find students who were able to afford these trips, and the suggestion was made that perhaps consideration should be given to examining district participation rather than from individual schools.

In concluding the discussion, advice was given that while the School District needed City involvement, it was necessary that the District initiate and lead the discussion. The comment was also made that the Sister City Committee should be included in the discussions.

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5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule

(Memo: Jan. 14/02)

Mr. Morris advised that approval had been obtained from the Provincial Government to proceed with the construction of a new Richmond High School to accommodate 1,200 students, and that construction should commence in late Spring. The suggestion was made that consideration be given to running a conduit in the ground for the provision of future playground lighting, and Mike Redpath was advised to contact Garry MacLean about the proposal.

6. PENDING ITEMS

None.

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee will be held on at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 26th, 2002 at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (2:20 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2002.

Councillor Harold Steves
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant