



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2001

Place: 4th Floor Meeting Room
School District Administration Office

Present: Trustee Gerry Retallick, Chair
Trustee Sandra Bourque
Councillor Lyn Greenhill

Also Present: C. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
G. McLean, Manager of Facilities
D. McLellan, General Manager - Urban Development *
D. Semple, Director - Parks *
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
W. Dunlop, Recording Secretary

** Not in attendance at this time.*

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY L GREENHILL AND SECONDED BY S. BOURQUE:

THAT the agenda for the Wednesday, January 24, 2001 meeting be adopted with the addition of *4.1 Community Strategies to Improve Preschool-Age Children's Readiness to Learn* and *4.2 Initiative Against Bullying*.

CARRIED

Mr. Semple entered the meeting.

2. MINUTES

MOVED BY L. GREENHILL AND SECONDED BY S. BOURQUE:

THAT the minutes of the November 15, 2000 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Richmond Secondary School Replacement - Community Centre Space

Mr. Morris provided an update on the replacement of Richmond Secondary School and indicated that the Board had received approval to proceed with planning. He advised that this project had been listed as the highest project by the Province in the last number capital budget. He indicated that he has instructed staff and the architect to proceed as quickly as possible. Mr. McLean advised that sketch plans should be completed by the end of February with pre-load hopefully at the end of June.

Mr. Morris noted that at the last Richmond Secondary Planning Committee meeting, City staff had raised the possibility of adding community centre space at the site. He inquired as to the amount of funds available as he did not want any diversions on this project. Councillor Greenhill advised that they had not as yet dealt with their capital budget and that it was not a request from City staff but rather a request from community centre staff. She indicated that they were very interested in the prospect but do not presently have dollars allocated to such a project. Mr. Semple responded that from sketch plans to detailed plans would allow for some time to look at the community need. Mr. Morris indicated that it was his mandate to have the facility completed as soon as possible and if the footprint had to be enlarged he would have to know that very quickly.

Further discussion followed on theatre space, possible alternate Gateway space and the possibility of augmenting such space with funding from other sources. Mr. Morris reiterated that if it was possible to do so, advice should be provided immediately so as not to delay the project. Currently the design only includes drama space. Ms. Sparrow stated that the community association did not want to lose the opportunity therefore had raised the issue. The type of space they require is still unclear and they are hoping to do a needs assessment this year. She indicated that it might be possible to speed up the process if there was a known opportunity.

Mr. Morris commented that the replacement of Richmond Secondary School has been requested for more than ten years and a topic of discussion at the Council/Board Liaison Committee a number of times over the years. Mr. Semple indicated that he would be bringing a report forward with regard to augmenting the space at Minoru and they would be looking at usage. He indicated that the school district might consider looking into this area as well.

Mr. McLean commented that it was difficult to compare this project to MacNeill as it was realistic to assume that the footprint will be in place in six to eight weeks.

3.2 Safe Meeting Places for Youth

Ms. Sparrow spoke to this topic and indicated that the memo attached was quite self-explanatory. She indicated that Wayne Yee, Coordinator of Youth Services, has been scanning the community and observing what is already there to avoid duplication. She indicated that they were trying to keep the timeline short with the research being completed in the first quarter and thereafter the recommended strategies would be presented.

Mr. Kelly asked if Mr. Yee would want to attend the next Joint Principals' Meeting and Ms. Sparrow advised that he was liaising with the Associate Superintendent. Mr. Kelly noted that Mr. Yee has attended meetings of 'Table 38' (a student council plus). He commented that there are many existing groups that young people are involved in but it is those who are not connecting that need to be reached. In response to this topic at 'Table 38', it was said that it is not the availability of the positive activity but the void of not belong and that void is filled with a negative enforcement referred to as a "right of violence".

Further discussion followed on the positive results of the East Richmond Task Force and the positive approach of the Youth Coordinator at the Cambic Community Centre. It was commented however that at some point the parents needed to be involved. Ms. Sparrow noted that one of the challenges today is that the issues are far more complex and there are not the support systems in place. She said that they were looking at neighbourhood development strategies and it will be a continuing priority to get neighbours connecting.

Mr. McLellan entered the meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Community Strategies to Improve Preschool-Age Children's Readiness to Learn

Trustee Bourque distributed information on the topic of preschool-age children's readiness to learn. She indicated that the school district does not have the ability to put the plan in place to qualify for funding. She said that Vancouver was participating in the program as the City of Vancouver had spearheaded the project. She asked whether the City and the Councillors would look at whether they had the capacity and structure to provide the coordination for such a project.

Councillor Greenhill responded that the City works in partnership with agencies in most cases. Mr. McLellan indicated that he thought that there was some potential for this project as the City had, due to current social issues, reached a full staffing complement. Discussion followed on areas currently being addressed such as homelessness and childcare development. He noted that casino funding

was in a large part going toward youth issues. He indicated that they might have some capacity in social planning staff and will investigate what is happening in Vancouver, particularly if Richmond is not accessing available funds.

Further discussion followed on the programs in Vancouver and where the funds are being allocated. A specific program targeted at Kindergarten teachers to assess the readiness of new students to learn was described.

Mr. Kelly commented that the two topics discussed along with vandalism are closely linked. He indicated that there appears to be an opportunity to collectively make a point that sends a message to families. Only 15% of developmental time is spent in schools and a collective, coordinated message to connect to the other 85% might deliver that message

Ms. Sparrow indicated that there is an initiative in East Richmond that began as the result of youth issues. A variety of agencies were called together to deal with the issues and have done so successfully. A smaller group has evolved who are looking at a strategy to discover what a safe, healthy environment would look like. Mr. Morris commented that it was ironic that schools in East Richmond were not a part of those being vandalized.

4.2 Initiative Against Bullying

Councillor Greenhill indicated that she had been approached by the President of the BC Boxing Association who currently have a demonstration program in the Surrey School District as a means of dealing with bullying. The impression received was that this was a positive program and she had indicated that she would take the information forward to the school district. Trustee Bourque responded that the topic of bullying had been raised at a recent district meeting and that several strategies are currently in place including Second Step and Effective Behaviour Strategies.

Mr. Kelly suggested that the individual contact his office and he would investigate further. Councillor Greenhill will provide the information.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

5.1 Planning & Construction Schedules - New/Renovations

Mr. Morris spoke to the planning and construction schedules included with the agendas. He reviewed the current status of each project and indicated that although there were eleven projects currently underway and that by the end of August only the two secondary schools would remain to be completed.

Trustee Bourque noted that the school district had experienced several break-ins recently and inquired whether the City had any experience with external video

surveillance. Mr. Semple responded that the City too had experienced break-ins recently. He indicated that Steveston Harbour has a system that has been very effective.

6. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee would be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2001 at the School District Offices.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY L. GREENHILL AND SECONDED BY S. BOURQUE:

THAT the regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

CARRIED