



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

Council/Board Liaison Committee Public Minutes

Tuesday, JANUARY 23, 2007

9:30 a.m.

School District Administration Building
4th Floor Board Room

Present: School Trustee Donna Sargent, Acting Chair
School Trustee Sandra Bourque
Councillor Derek Dang
Councillor Linda Barnes

Absent: School Trustee Linda McPhail

Also Present: K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Culture
T. Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Programs Planning & Design
G. De Cicco, Manager, Oval Sport Business, Olympic Business
Office
V. Jacques, Manager, Projects and Programs
D. Semple, Director, Parks & Public Works Operations
R. Kates, Manager, Real Estate Services
J. Chong, Director of Finance
B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools
K.L. Morris, Secretary Treasurer
E. Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities
R. Inrig, District Administrator
K. Littlewood, Executive Secretary, SD 38

Call to Order: The Chair called the open meeting to order at 9:31 am

The Chair asked for Introductions of all those present.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, January 23, 2007, be adopted with an amendment to add under "New Business" 4.7 "ERCA Billing" and 4.8 "Terms of Reference".

7.3 City Centre Area Plan will be moved forward on the agenda to accommodate an appointment for Mr. Crowe.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Councillor Barnes asked for clarification on follow up of issues discussed at meetings. It was noted that either City of Richmond staff, Councillors, School District staff or Trustees would ask for follow-up under "Business Arising" on the next Council Board Liaison Agenda.

It was noted that on pg. 4 of the previous minutes there was mention of a political discussion and daycare services. This will be added under 3.2 "Business Arising". Also added under 3.3 will be Richmond School Board Representation on the Olympic Stakeholder Committee.

Notes of the meeting of the Council/Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 attached for reference.

Item 7.1 was moved forward to this point of the Agenda

7.1 City Centre Area Plan

Mr. Crowe spoke to this issue and indicated he is expecting to attend the February 6 planning meeting with the City Centre Area Plan concept. His recommendation would be that Council adopts it and then instructs staff to undertake a bylaw and implementation strategy which would be ongoing to July. Consultants are being hired and growth and demographics will be looked at. Mr. Crowe will make arrangements for the City and the School Board's consultants to speak. Their data regarding demographics will be given to the School District. The School Board would then come up with a model to present to the City.

In the staff report to the February 6 meeting, Mr. Crowe will note that City and School Board staff may do two visioning exercises per year. One could be the City Centre Area Plan and one could be OCP. He sees Council, Planning Committees and the ongoing opportunity at the Council Board Liaison Committee to speak about this issue. Community schools and how they would look are something that will be looked at. He expects that School Board staff will be at the February 6 meeting.

OCP – this will be later in the year outside of City Centre and the School Board will be kept apprised of that. The same approaches could be used.

The Chair thanked the City for the opportunity to speak to Council. It was noted that Council is aware of the School Board's concerns. Trustees are looking for a process in place as far as ongoing regular communication around this plan.

Mr. Morris noted that on page 8 of the City document of the original plan there is mention of "community schools". This is not a term that is used any longer and this is the only reference to "public schools" in the plan. For this reason, the School Board cannot provide information on the term "community school". Councillor Dang indicated this would be revised in future documents.

Councillor Dang spoke about growth in the City Centre and the concerns that people in this area have. Sales have slowed, prices are high and signs of a correction are there. Filling the downtown core with 120,000 people is not going to happen overnight and will take time.

It was stressed by Councillor Barnes that this is a long term plan. Staffs should come together, perhaps at a planning committee or as a standing item on Parks, Recreation and Culture agendas. Do not want "after the fact" communication. Both staffs should come up with options to get together. Information flow is important for Councillors and Trustees.

RECOMMENDATION: staffs discuss and present communication at a political level to come back sooner rather than later for us to both look at and approve.

Trustee Bourque asked for clarity on what the motion is asking. This should be politician to politician looking for formats to communicate better. The suggestion was made for visioning exercises, politician to politician. There was discussion of Staff involvement. It was noted that to date Trustees nor Councillors have sat down together to do this

An amendment to the motion was suggested: for Councillors and trustees to discuss with their respective staffs how we might come up with ways to better communicate and then have an interchange of ideas.

Trustee Sargent feels people are looking for more immediate information. Councillors are not receiving information they should be getting from staff. It was suggested that Councillors and Trustees meet rather than sending to staff.

Councillors rely on staff for structure and "political speak" and to set out parameters.

It was decided to leave the motion as is. **MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Barnes asked Mr. Crowe if meeting before the next Council Board Liaison Committee was a reasonable time frame. Mr. Crowe indicated Mr. Dave Weber was looking at rules for planning committee and Mr. Crowe will report back on this. Not unreasonable to expect something to Council of what might work. Two visioning exercises will take place.

The Chair suggested meeting in one month's time. A clear notion of population and a timeline was requested by Trustee Bourque. Councillor Dang made it known that Councillors understand the problems faced by Trustees. The School Board has a narrow mandate and small staff and it is harder to devote time to visioning exercises.

Mr. Crowe departed the meeting.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Celebrating 100 Years of Public Education in Richmond

Mr. Morris gave a brief history on the excellence in education within the District and the reason for this celebration.

The Richmond School District had the highest graduation rate last year in the province.

Various activities have been planned for the year with community involvement being considered. Some examples are the District Conference on February 15th and a bus in the July 1 Salmon Festival.

A re-enactment of a 1906 Board Meeting will take place on February 19th and members of the City of Richmond have been invited.

3.2 Daycares

In the previous minutes, mention was made of discussions with community centres as they pertain to daycares. Background to the daycare issue was given by Mr. Morris. Fees were adjusted last year for all daycares. South Arm Community Association withdrew its services last year from DeBeck and the West Richmond Community Association continues at Gilmore.

Mr. Morris indicated that there are approximately forty daycares in thirty elementary schools. He indicated that his office has extensive information related to the demand for daycare in the

community. This information is easily retrieved and has been provided to the City and community agencies in the past.

Councillor Barnes asked about the conversation surrounding the profit/not for profit issue and if that discussion took place. Mr. Morris said that type of conversation did not occur specifically with the community associations but did take place on a philosophical level with all daycares. The School Board found that not for profit groups were using profits to support other programs and that is why the decision was made to have only one fee for all daycares.

Trustee Bourque explained the long process that was involved over the past year concerning daycares. Considerable lobbying by the not for profit daycares was undertaken by the daycares. Page 5 of the previous minutes indicates the City was going to speak to the community associations. It was noted that the issue was discussed at a Richmond Communities Committee meeting.

There was discussion about the YMCA pulling out of schools. Mr. Morris said two YMCA daycares closed. Child care development Boards are concerned that the not for profit daycares do provide a higher level of service compared to independent daycares. Mr. Morris noted that the quality of daycares is not in the school's mandate but will get involved if the safety of students is a concern.

Mention was made of a lack of daycare space as outlined in the press. It was noted that the number of 1-5 years old is slightly less than 10 years ago and the number of preschool age children is falling. There may be an increase demand because of family arrangements but not because of numbers as reported in the media.

The suggestion was made to add this topic to another agenda.

3.3 Olympic Representation

The Board Chair has indicated that members of the Board would like to be on an Olympic planning committee and feels there is an opportunity for this. It was explained that Councillors have undergone a revamping of committees and three committees have been struck specific to the Oval and that is where the focus has been. The Stakeholder committee is not active yet. Councillor Dang suggested last year that the District be represented on a Stakeholder Committee and an invitation is reported to have been sent but the District has no record of it

and did not reply. That committee will focus on the legacy (post-games) phase.

Mr. Duncan indicated to a Board member that an invitation was forthcoming. Trustees would like to be proactive. Councillor Dang noted there is no calendar for this at the moment.

Trustees are being asked by members of the community about plans and how they see school participation. The rowing tank was mentioned at a previous Stakeholder's meeting and the involvement of the School Board. Scheduling and planning have not been broached yet.

Ms. Sparrow said the City does not have a committee that involves activities outside of building the oval at this time. Opportunities that might be forthcoming have only just started to be discussed. The Spirit Committee is more community involvement oriented and is looking at helping to create lasting legacies.

The Superintendent and Ms. Sparrow met with Mr. Young from the Business Office yesterday and this will be an ongoing item on the agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Food & Beverage Sales – Ministry Guidelines

Mr. Inrig explained the health promoting policy contained in the package. Providing healthy food and beverage options in schools is one way to do this. A productive discussion concerning consistent labeling has taken place with City staff. Hopefully this will carry over to the Community Centres. The school district is going out to tender in order to have a district wide contract. Developmental assets are being discussed with the City. Health as well as physical activity is being given a high profile. Dialogue with Community Centres is still to take place. Currently the District is ahead of the Ministry timeline.

It was noted that each Association has independent contracts at the Community Centres. Cambie is a shared facility and that would have the most impact. The district would be willing to look at bringing in others to add on to its contract.

Ms. Sparrow said when last tenders for arenas and aquatic facilities were renewed it did concern itself with healthy choice. The Community Centres will take time to convert.

The Ministry guides the school districts and the Ministries of Health and Education are currently working together. Mr.

Jacques suggested that some language be rolled over and built into contracts for renewal at Community Centres.

The example of Cambie Community Centre and Cambie Secondary School was mentioned and the concern was would this program be successful if one site had healthy choices and the other did not. It was suggested by Trustee Bourque that the City have control over saying what Community Centres could supply. Councillor Barnes disagreed and noted Community Centres operate independently.

Mr. Inrig indicated that Cambie Community Centre and Cambie Secondary were willing to work together.

There are several different contractors involved and they want to be seen to be on board with this program.

Mr. Inrig departed the meeting.

4.2 Snow Day Protocols and Administrative Guidelines

After the November snowfall there was discussion within the School District and with the City of Richmond by the Superintendent. It was noted the Superintendent is responsible for deciding when to close schools and will not do so unless there is a civic emergency. If weather conditions are serious enough to result in mobilization of the Emergency Response Center school closure will be seriously considered, otherwise schools will remain open.

There are joint school and park sites and access is sometimes through the park. Roads and walkways become an issue when there is a snowfall. Trustee Bourque suggested that the City clear park sidewalks which serve as access to schools and that they also find a way to have residents near schools clear sidewalks in front of their property so children can safely walk to school.

The City has a bylaw for cleaning commercial sidewalks but not for residential sidewalks. Councillor Dang suggested making a motion before the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee to come up with helpful suggestions. He noted the area around Spul'u'kwuks school was kept clear due to the diligence of its staff. He also spoke of the driving difficulties around schools.

Councillor Dang recommended that the committee refer the snow and its impact to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Mr. Semple explained that a recommendation to have people clear subdivision sidewalks is included in his report to Public Works. There are no plans for plowing in subdivisions by the City at this time. Councillor Barnes requested that Mr. Semple send a copy of this report to the School District.

Councillor Dang made the suggestion that a bylaw for people with sidewalks in front of their houses could be brought before Council.

There was an explanation from Mr. Semple of how quickly black ice can occur. His report will indicate response times.

4.3 School Fees – their impact on access to and participation in community parks and recreation programs

Superintendent Beairsto gave background on the reason for the recent ruling on school fees. The District has been working since September to interpret the ruling. Parents concerns were outlined. The Minister has indicated she is thinking of making changes and may look at allowing a “permissible fee”. Currently, the greatest concern is programs of choice. There is a public meeting on January 24, 2007 at Palmer Secondary for all interested with a follow up meeting on March. 14, 2007. There will be significant changes but fees have not been eliminated.

There was discussion on this topic at the UBC Rowing Coordinating Committee meeting. Arenas, aquatics, and community facilities would like to see some information. The Superintendent offered to speak to this if requested.

Trustee Sargent noted that the Board has spent considerable time on this issue and are trying to understand it fully. This is a huge issue for both the Board and the City and Councillors need to be aware of this. It is felt the Ministry needs to hear from the community. The Board is trying to advocate at the B.C. School Trustees Association and has written two letters to the Minister asking her to take a stand. The District would like to see City representation at the meeting tomorrow at Palmer and suggested that perhaps they could write a letter to the Ministry.

Councillor Barnes agreed that this is an immense issue for both the Board and the City and noted the economic impacts to both. Councillors Dang and Barnes requested a letter be written to the Ministry of Education stating concerns and the impact on City programs and economy.

The potential impact on city facilities, in particular the pools and rinks, was noted. Swimming and ice skating lessons during the day cannot be fit in, and may mean children will not be getting lessons during public schools' instructional hours.

RECOMMENDATION: City Council join with the School Board in its campaign and write a letter to the Ministry of Education noting the adverse affect that this judgment has on health, wellness, and recreation within the community

CARRIED

A copy of the letter is to be sent to Act Now, the B.C. Recreation Parks Association, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, and Premier Campbell.

The most recent letters from the Board to the Minister of Education on the topic of schools fees and letters sent by BCSTA on this topic will be provided to the City by the Superintendent.

4.4 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Proposed 2007 Initiatives

For information purposes the Report from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee was included to report successes and continued work in 2007.

The ongoing issue of traffic flow at schools was discussed. Reports from the School District have been forwarded to the City on various programs for example, Walking Wednesdays.

Trustee Bourque noted that more effective education on driving children to school needs to be created and does not feel a difference is being made at the school level on this issue. The number of vehicles needs to be reduced.

Mr. Morris has GIS data that shows those children that are coming from outside of schools' catchment areas. At the elementary level many students are drawn by the daycares at the school. A number of students live outside of Richmond.

Walking programs are being undertaken at the community level and grants are being actively sought by the City.

Investment at all levels of government is necessary and it was noted by Ms. Sparrow that this is a long term process and people's behaviours will have to change.

Mr. Thorleifson remarked on the joint anti-idling campaign with the City and the School Board and he suggested the City pass an anti-idling bylaw since health, the environment, and safety are all tied together and a higher level regulatory solution is needed.

4.5 Risk Management Issue – Residential Construction Adjacent to Public Schools (i.e. Tomsett Elementary)

Trustee Sargent spoke briefly to this. Concern was raised over children leaving school and walking on the road when dump trucks are rolling, in particular, along Odlin Road. The suggestion was made to stagger times of dump trucks at noon hour and after school. This item will be added to the Traffic and Technical Advisory committee and Mr. Semple will contact the contractors on this and report back at the next meeting.

4.6 Olympic Business Office

A PowerPoint presentation of the Olympic Oval was given by Mr. De Cicco. He remarked he would like to have every student in Richmond step on the Olympic Oval skating surface and have the opportunity to be involved in the Richmond Rockets skating club. Their office is currently getting requests for pre and post game usage.

Trustee Bourque had a query concerning the rowing tank and it was noted that it will be included in the Oval. There is strong interest from the disabled community for using the tank at the Oval

4.7 Outstanding Invoices

Mr. Morris explained that this is a joint project at Cambie and Hamilton between the City of Richmond and the School Board. There was a meeting last April to discuss outstanding invoices.

City staff directed School District staff to forward such invoices to Steve Baker, Area Coordinator, East Richmond. From there the matter was referred to various departments at the City and to date the School District's accounting staff has been frustrated trying to collect these outstanding invoices.

There is a provision within the Cambie Operation Agreement to resolve such matters through Arbitration but Trustees felt that the Council-Board Liaison Committee would be an appropriate venue to discuss such issues.

Direction is being sought at this meeting for a process for payment on these invoices.

Ms. Sparrow was surprised to see this coming to this venue as she has not been contacted on this matter and indicated that a call to her or Mr. Chong would have straightened the matter out. The City also indicated that more timely billing is required.

The matter was brought up at the Cambie Coordinating committee on April 5, 2006 and the City was advised that they had not received a bill since 2003. At the time, School District staff indicated it would get the billings out as soon as possible. Bills were issued in May, 2006. The City's Facility Management staff were to see that payment was issued. It is challenging to get back bills because the City's budget year ends December 31st.

A matter arising from the Cambie Coordinating committee meeting directed facilities staff at the City and the District to look at a metering system to be put in place. No further update has been received on this.

Mr. Chong indicated that the non-payment was an administrative issue and accepted responsibility for being late.

However, invoices received dating back 2-3 years required some investigation and time to pay. To date the City has not received the 2005/06 invoices for Cambie and Hamilton. In future, working in partnership, calls should be made to Finance on non-payment issues.

Mr. Morris noted that in addition to energy metering it was hoped to partition off the heat for the community center. Mr. Morris indicated that there had been one meeting in this regard. This will have to be postponed until the District is able to staff a recently vacated position. Calls were made by the School District accounting staff to the City concerning payment of the outstanding invoices and they were bounced around from City staff to City staff.

Trustee Sargent said that a better job could be done of getting year-end invoices to the City in a timely manner. Mr. Morris indicated that such invoices would be sent to Mr. Chong's attention early in the Fall.

4.8 Terms of Reference

The mandate of the Council Board Liaison Committee was brought forward for discussion since Trustees and Councillors have not spoken on this recently. It was felt the Committee was not working as it should. Minutes of the meetings are shared with other Trustees but there is concern that this is the case with fellow Councillors. It was suggested that all Councillors and School Trustees receive the minutes to be able to discuss in their individual groups. Concern has been expressed to Trustees that there is a lack of information being given to all members of Council.

RECOMMENDATION: Committee communication and communication between Councillors and Trustees to be placed on the Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda as a Standing Item.

CARRIED

5. PROGRAMS

5.1 STANDING ITEM

Superintendent Beairsto reported on Community Connections, a joint project with City staff to discuss joint programs and community use of schools in the Hamilton, Cook and Anderson school communities. Public meetings will be held in those communities in the near future. In early March there will be a related workshop for City, District, Health Authority, MCFD, and RCMP staff on Asset Development and a public forum on integrated approaches to youth support programs.

Councillor Barnes informed the Committee about the 2010 'Greenlympic Legacy Conference' for grade 8-12 students that is coming up in February. This is put on by the Rotaract Club of Richmond and the Richmond Youth Foundation. Wendy Lim is working with this group on behalf of the School District.

6. FACILITIES

6.1 City School Land Planning Committee

Mr. Redpath reported on the meeting by the Land Planning Committee that took place in December. The focus of the meeting was land issues.

6.2 OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy Deferred

7. INFORMATION/STANDING ITEMS

7.1 *Item 7.1 dealt with earlier on the Agenda*

7.2 School Planning and Construction Schedule

Information attached. Construction of Steveston London will be completed by September 2007.

7.3 2010 - City's Olympic Planning Committee

Gary Young will provide updates in future.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at 9:30 am, Tuesday, February 27, 2007.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (12:05 p.m.)

CARRIED