

ITEM 3.1



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 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
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Administration & Programs
G. Barstow, Manager, Parks Operations
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
A. Flasch, Recording Secretary

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY L GREENHILL AND SECONDED BY S. BOURQUE:

THAT the agenda for the Wednesday, February 28, 2001 meeting be adopted with the addition of 5.3 *Library Writing Contest.*, and 6.2 *Use of the Currie Annex by the RRTA.*

CARRIED

Mr. Barstow entered the meeting during the above.

2. BRIEFS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

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3. MINUTES

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

THAT the minutes of the January 24, 2001 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Grass Cutting, Block Booking

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the materials included with the agenda package. He noted that meetings have been held with City staff and that the Board's Facilities & Building Committee has also discussed the issue. A further meeting with D. Semple and M. Redpath is scheduled in order to discuss further details, and a number of dates have been put forward for consultation.

Councillor Greenhill noted that the report has a sense to it that there will be changes, which she conveyed suggests that a completely "open" review is precluded.

Trustee Retallick noted that the cost of heating buildings has been sharply increased and has caused the Board concern, as it has not seen any funding from the Government to cover the increases. There is also the additional concern of custodians possibly moving to a minimum 4-hour shift, which would increase the overhead of the rentals even more.

Mr. McLellan noted that the City has also experienced increased costs to facilitate grass cutting and operation of machinery, as well as other operations.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that there is much benefit to the school district that goes beyond grass cutting, and there is also benefit to the City in using the playing fields, etc. He expressed concern that when the information reaches the community, the consultation necessary may have to include meeting with all 120 groups and volunteer organizations to inform and up-date. There has not been a great number of difficulties with the affiliates, although as volunteer organizations, the executive committees change frequently.

Mr. Redpath noted that "tabs" are well kept on all groups, with only approx. 1% "slipping through the cracks".

Councillor Greenhill noted that there needs to be caution as to how the issue is portrayed to the community, and she wants to avoid it becoming an antagonistic exercise. The Secretary Treasurer noted that the administrative issues should be discussed between staff only, with a cost benefit analysis.

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The Secretary Treasurer reminded members that the mandate of the Board is not to provide recreation. However, the public and our employees see, in the City Leisure Guide, the City of Richmond subletting Board facilities for profit. An example of that is using our gyms for group activities, such as Badminton, and collecting user fees from the participants.

Trustee Bourque commented that one can only use facts to back up the points, not emotion when deciding fairness and changes. Staff has been asked to compile accurate facts, and it was noted that the reality of the school district is not just that the whole purse is taxpayer money, but that we have a mandate and operating funds provided by the Ministry of Education. She noted that the Board cannot go to the government and justify receiving funding for "after hours" recreation, when such is not our mandate.

Mr. McLellan acknowledged that the mandate of the government for the school district is limited. He asked how we would compare our city and district, which works well together, with other districts. Government does provide significant funds to some communities for community development, and he noted that benefits can be provided to our citizens for a marginal cost. He stated that the government needs to be shown this.

Trustee Retallick noted that many things will be looked at, but that the bottom line is that this community is a model city concerning the joint use of facilities. He asked how we will continue to pay for the joint uses when outside factors are causing the costs to rise beyond the school district's scope. Specifically, he spoke on energy costs, which are not being covered by the funding from the government. He agreed it does have to be discussed at the staff levels first, and that careful thought must be given as to how the issues are presented to the community.

Trustee Bourque noted that Continuing Education does have to cover its rising costs from its students as it goes, through registration fees. With the budget for next year arriving from government in a few months, the threat remains of having to lay people off to cover all of our costs, as 93% of the school district budget is dedicated to salaries. She conveyed that covering the costs of joint use in a fair and equitable manner for both parties needs to be resolved.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that user fees for fields is an important issues that needs to be researched for future implementation. Trustee Bourque added that work is needed with a view to augmenting our services now and in the future, instead of dissolving them.

Mr. Redpath spoke about discussions held regarding male/female equity among the sport user groups for the playing fields, and user fees were part of the discussion.

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The Secretary Treasurer noted that the proposed plan of discussion and consultation with the City is to be taken to the Board on March 5th, and then in the following two weeks that discussions be held with the City. Councillor Greenhill asked that it not be taken to the Board at this time, in order that staff discussions be held first. Trustee Bourque noted that the issue has already been out in the public. The Secretary Treasurer offered that the minutes of the February 28, 2001 meeting will be in the Board agenda package, and the discussions could be noted by the Board there. He noted that therefore, a report could go to a future meeting of the Board.

4.3 Vandalism & School Site Security

Trustee Bourque spoke to the memorandum included with the agenda package and circulated a letter dated February 26, 2001 to the Mayor, noting the action the Board has taken on the Mayor's Task Force on Drugs & Crime.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that there is a recommendation going to the Board at its March 5, 2001 public meeting. The Board formed a working group at its February 5th public meeting and the working group considered the 44/2001 and commented that the 24-hour monitoring clause was too limited. A recommendation will be sent to the Board that is slightly modified:

THAT the Board of School Trustees (Richmond) write letters to the City of Richmond, RCMP (Richmond Detachment), Neighbourhood Block Watch program, and other appropriate community agencies calling for their interest in establishing a joint task force that will review and make recommendations regarding the security of public facilities in order to deter incidents of break-ins, theft, vandalism, and trespassing.

The working group met on February 16th and brainstormed on a number of ideas to deter thieves, and also came to the realization that each site is different and has unique problems. The notes were sent to all schools for information and comments on what is working for their schools. The notes may go, with Board approval, to the Task Force for consideration.

The Secretary Treasurer will advise the City if the formation of Task Force is approved by the Board.

4.4 Conditions for Zoning for MacNeill Secondary School

The Secretary Treasurer noted that construction funding has been received for this new school, and the City's five site conditions have been met. He noted that he will be signing documents with the contractor, Country West Construction, very soon.

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Councillor Greenhill noted that the City has approved the modifications for the Official Community Plan in that area.

Mr. McLellan asked if the Ministry of Education had any interest in addressing legislation to deal with this kind of interesting issue.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Windows of Opportunity - Early childhood Development.

It was noted that this item was dealt with at the last meeting. Councillor Greenhill suggested that the Health Services Society should oversee this issue.

Mr. McLellan noted he asked his staff if there was a process for hiring a replacement for Carolyn Morrison and that person will be in charge of the daycare and family issues. It seems that a provincially funded agency should take the lead. There is an opportunity for the City to undertake a coordinating role, perhaps through social planning.

Ms. Sparrow noted that discussion has gone on from several committees looking at several issues regarding poverty issues, etc. A children and youth forum is being considered to get all the groups together for a discussion on services. Some strategies may be developed to be proactive. The Richmond Community Services Advisory Council and Child Care Development are involved.

Mr. McLellan noted that a progress report should be done to provide on-going information.

Trustee Bourque noted that proposals must be ready for the next opportunity/round.

Trustee Retallick noted that this will be an item for future agendas.

5.2 OCP Consultation

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the School District is not receiving enough time to respond to proposed changes to the OCP, nor is it receiving notices of important community meetings, such as Council agendas, in a timely manner. In most cases, the copies are being received well after a meeting has taken place. Councillor Greenhill asked Mr. McLellan to confirm what the process was. He noted that the City Clerk's office will be requested to provide information to the Board when the notices are available on the City website. The Secretary Treasurer will look after scanning the agendas for items of interest to the Board.

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Trustee Bourque noted that in the case of changes to the OCP, there is legislated requirement to consult, and not enough notice was given for that process.

5.3 Library Writing contest

Trustee Bourque spoke to this item and noted that, over the years, this writing contest has involved the City, the School Board, and others jointly. When the literature is published, there is no recognition contained therein that we have participated, but the private schools receive, as in the last instance, page vii of the brochure. Councillor Greenhill noted this page was in acknowledgement of the private school donating \$4000 to the program. She conveyed that it would be appreciated that when these partnerships are made, the effort of the School District is recognized in writing, with a view that the public and the press also sees recognition of the School District, even though it may not be paying for advertising.

It was noted that the success of the program is largely because of the promotion of it from school district teachers and their assistance to the public system students who participate in it.

Mr. McLellan noted he would speak to the library, where they operate under a different set of legislation.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Planning & Construction Schedule

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the two major projects on the horizon were the replacement of Richmond Secondary School and construction of the new MacNeill Secondary School. He spoke to the schedule included with the agenda package and up-dated the meeting on plans for Richmond Secondary School. Mr. McLean circulated a copy of the favoured plan for the layout of the site and spoke to same, particularly about vehicular access. Discussion ensued. Mr. McLean noted that meetings with City traffic staff are being held, where entrance and exits to the school are being discussed.

The Secretary Treasurer highlighted the location of the Colts daycare, as well as concerns of neighbouring property owners regarding the two storey building. Mr. Barstow had questions regarding the fields during construction. Mr. Morris noted that there was not a football team at Richmond, but that rugby and soccer could be considered. The Manager of Parks had noted that an all weather field could be a possibility. Discussion continued on parking and vehicle access.

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The Secretary Treasurer also provided a brief up-date on Hamilton, noting completion by September, as well as up-dates on Currie, Homma, and Ferris elementary schools. He explained that the renovation/addition to McKay Elementary school is being re-tendered due to all the bids being over budget.

6.2 Use of the General Currie Annex by the Richmond Retired Teachers' Association

Regarding the use of the heritage annex at General Currie between the Richmond Retired Teachers' Association, Councillor Greenhill asked for some confirmation on what the arrangement is. The Secretary Treasurer provided background information, noting that access has been given to both the RRTA and the Continuing Education Department. The Director of Continuing Education has noted that, since parking is not included with this access to the heritage annex, that he would have little use for the classroom for adult courses.

7. **PENDING ITEMS**

Nil

8. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

THAT the regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted.

G. Retallick, Chairperson