



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2003  
9:00 a.m.

Place: 4th Floor Meeting Room  
School District Administration Office

Present: Trustee A. McKitrick, Chair  
Trustee P. Whittaker  
Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt

Regrets: Councillor D. Dang

Also Present: Trustee L. McPhail  
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer  
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Administration & Programs  
D. Ince, Manager, Community Recreation  
T. Crowe, Manager, Development Applications  
L. Sherlock, Social Planner  
G. Barstow, Manager of Parks Operations  
A. Flasch Carabott, Recording Secretary

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA****IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the agenda for the Tuesday, March 11, 2003 meeting be adopted with the following addition:

1. New Business: Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan (Service Delivery Review)  
CARRIED

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made around the table. It was noted that Ms. Leslie Sherlock has replaced the job share position of Ms. Marg Picard and Ms. Carolyn Morrison as Social Planner.

**3. MINUTES****IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the minutes of the January 21, 2003 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be approved.

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

##### 4.1 Update on Grass Cutting/Block Booking Agreement

Standing item. It was again noted that school bookings account for approximately 30,000 hours of usage per year, and the City utilizes 15,000 hours per year for community centres, most of which are attributable to summer camps, with over 11,000 hours usage per year for youth-oriented rentals. Mr. Morris also provided background on double-booking issues that have arisen in the past. The computer systems have worked well in resolving these issues. He also noted the Board's Rental Department has moved to the school district Works Yard.

Mr. Redpath noted that fields are in the process of being changed from soccer to baseball season. He also noted that user groups are being informed well in advance of any construction that might keep any fields closed. Mr. Barstow added that some of the recurring theft and vandalism issues are being addressed, such as goal posts being stolen.

Mr. Morris closed by noting that there have been 44 capital projects completed to seismically up-grade schools. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt commended the Board on its diligence with this responsibility and will bring it to the attention of City Council.

##### 4.2 Increasing Densification in the City Core

Trustee McKittrick spoke to this item, noting it would be beneficial for the school district and the City to join forces around recreation issues, increased spaces needed for more children than previously planned for arriving from the City core. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt noted that the City is planning for these services, while the Secretary Treasurer noted that we need to define what the core is.

Mr. Crowe noted that of 17 area plans for the core, approximately 7-8 are sub areas of the city centre. He will forward same to the school district.

Mr. Morris continued by saying that there is a plan, and Anderson in North McLennan is a very large school, and the City is able to use it with the City Centre Community Association. It is a dual track school, so the ability is there to move the district program in the future. He noted further that in South McLennan, money was received for eight properties adjacent to the City's four properties, which was worked together for a 12 parcel school/park site. There is conflict potential regarding the Board's rental properties, as the Board would want to continue receiving rental income until provincial funding is in place, so its timetable may differ for development, compared to the City's.

Mr. Morris noted that DeBeck Elementary School recently went through a boundary change to accommodate South McLennan growth. At General Currie, the school was replaced with a new school a number of years ago with ten additional classrooms, of which four are presently empty. This will nicely accommodate increased City core densification. Ferris Elementary School will also accommodate some of the children from the City core, while MacNeill Secondary School will also be receiving grade sevens and eights for September out of the Cook and Anderson catchment for the first year, while the eventual MacNeill population will climb to 800 out of the local apartment buildings. Richmond Secondary School is going through a \$20 million replacement with a 1,200 capacity and present enrollment of 1,100. As growth proceeds along Garden City Road, children from that area will be accommodated well into the future.

Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt commented that as we go through the densification process, it is hoped that there will be new ways to deliver services, such as looking at school classrooms that are not already being utilized for adult programs, etc. Mr. Morris commented that security could be an issue that would hamper those ideas, although new school designs include a gym that is separate and can be locked off. Otherwise, programs are moved away from vulnerable schools, such as Diefenbaker.

Mr. Redpath noted that principals are being more accommodating with the rentals than in the past. He also said that demand for inside space is now equal to that of the demand for outside space/fields, and there is a shortage before new schools even open. Mr. Ince noted that City core challenges are quite different than those in other areas.

It was acknowledged that now, more than ever, the Board and the City need to work together on evolving issues with present and future facilities and projects. It was noted that the City is 60,000 people away from its maximum population of 212,000 through 2021, of which 30,000 will be targeted for the City core, and 30,000 to West Richmond. He also noted that over the next ten years the City will be reviewing the Livable Region Strategy, and also provided background on the C-7 zoning that is in place in the core.

Detailed discussion ensued on expectations of developers in the future to provide for some of the needs to accommodate the densification. One developer has, as an example, gifted 5,000 square feet with the development of a new hotel. Part of the City's response to needs of City core residents will be in the Parks and Recreation Review, including how the City should fund child care, affiliated housing public art, and other formulas. Kids today are interested in many "cults" that do not lend themselves to blending, they need separate, dedicated facilities and services. Shopping centres are great places for early morning walking and exercise programs. The City is clear on its mandate, but input from students, perhaps in the form of a survey, for what is wanted for community space would be helpful in identifying needs and planning for how developers can assist greatly in accommodating these needs, either in donation of space, facilities, funds, etc.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that although the sole mandate of the school district is public education, it has accommodated out of school care programs. The school district has increased the number of out of school care programs from 5 to 20. The service does fit well in the schools, but it has been found that more than 20 programs have not been financially viable for the operators. Placing care programs in schools that need a higher population has worked well.

**City core densification will be on the next public agenda of the Board of School Trustees for discussion.**

#### 4.3/4.4 Poverty Response

A copy of the Richmond Community Services Advisory Council's *Richmond Poverty Response Committee Report* was included with the agenda package.

Ms. Sherlock described the history of the project from December 2000 with a report to the City on statistical information. Poverty was then defined as 22%, based upon 1996 Census figures. Richmond's 22% poverty rate is even higher than Surrey's. She also noted that the food program in the schools was mentioned in the report. An additional report will be presented to City Council in April, and the Richmond Poverty Response Committee Report will be contained therein.

Trustee McKitrick noted that the Gilmore Park Association (represented by Sally Houston) is attending the April 7, 2003 public meeting of the Board to present a cheque for \$4,000 toward the food program for school students. She provided background information about continuing issues with access to food and services that cost money, including shelter. It was noted that schools have been excellent in raising money and having drives to benefit the food banks.

Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt noted that access to recreation is a priority and the City wants a consistent policy in place for the financially disadvantaged, noting that a survey from students (previously mentioned in City Core Densification) would be helpful in this area.

Trustee McPhail spoke to the issue of keeping Sidaway Annex open due to the community situation, their vast catchment area, and the need of the school as some families' only recreation facility. The Secretary Treasurer confirmed that 1/3 of the island is Sidaway's catchment area. He spoke to the diversity of financial abilities and disadvantaged in the school's population, noting that it is a unique blend and the wealthy have well looked after their disadvantaged at the school, in some cases providing parenting models to mentor and support some seriously needy families who would not have had other options. It would have been an irreplaceable loss of support and community to some of those families to close the school. Those present from the City appreciated hearing about these underlying issues.

It was conveyed that organized recreation, access to it, dignity and the ability to pay their own way without being singled out is important. People in need do not appreciate having to prove their need time and time again, so appropriate delivery needs to be assured.

Further discussion on a universal food program ensued. It was noted that although not all schools have programs, school principals ensure that a child who needs food will get it, and they have discretionary funds for such purposes. The Families Task Force will need to define the need, define what a universal food program would look like. It was also noted that plenty of local businesses would be amenable to funding a food program and there are a number of models to choose from.

Discussion moved to confidential data sharing as a possibility so that families would not have to present the information repeatedly. It was noted that community school nurses used to be an excellent confidential link, but this has been compromised due to the formation of regional health boards. The Secretary Treasurer noted that each school knows the information on their own students who are in need, but it is not recorded. The schools work hard on looking after the food needs in house through fundraisers, hampers, etc. The Food Bank does keep and track information for their services.

Suggestions were made on City access to schools to offer outreach and summer programs to those in need. It was noted that, at Sidaway for instance, the problem after school hours or season is bussing. Staffs will look closely at providing more services to Sidaway to help needy families, starting with liaison with the Intercultural Committee.

#### 4.5 Delivery of Youth Services

Discussion on the City's youth and delivery of services to them was held. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt noted that the school district has the children during the day, while the City has those same children after school, and noted that their ideas need to be captured for help in identifying their needs. A presentation, perhaps PowerPoint, was suggested to outline for posterity what the joint relationships are. This will be further discussed at an up-coming dinner meeting scheduled between the Board and City Council.

The Secretary Treasurer offered that they need to get involved in sports, with the greatest need for same from elementary students. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt also suggested that those hardest to reach, such as those who work with outreach teachers, were also important for feedback on what their needs and interests are. Mr. Ince noted that, as for outreach students, the Youth Workers do maintain contact specifically.

It was noted that disconnected youth do need liaison, access to life skills on both employment skills and back to school incentive. Mr. Ince confirmed that youth over 18 could use more priority from the City, and that area needs to be looked at. He will look into perhaps offering a joint job skills program that is different from others.

The meeting also discussed disconnected youth and vandalism issues. The school district spends an average of \$450K per year addressing vandalism through the Operations Department, and noting that most incidents occur between the hours of 1-3:00 a.m. Mr. Redpath noted that the biggest issue in the parks at this item is actually illegal dumping of refuse. The increase in vandalism and like issues has caused the resurrection of the Vandalism Committee, and a staff representative from the School District was requested. Further, a copy of the in-service materials that Trustee Hobbs will acquire from visiting a Maple Ridge conference on vandalism will be forwarded to Mr. Redpath for information.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Service Delivery Review

Trustee McPhail opened discussion, noting that the Richmond Association of Community Associations "Service Delivery Review" was not shared with the Board and feedback would have been appropriate, since several schools are coupled with community associations, such as Boyd/West Richmond, McRoberts/South Arm, Cambie, and Hamilton.

It was noted by Mr. Ince that such was an oversight. He offered that Open houses will be forthcoming where feedback will be welcomed. He said that change to service delivery at those schools is not anticipated while the review process proceeds.

Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt provided background, noting that the present model is fifty years old and is being reviewed. Mr. Redpath noted that the Strategic Master Plan is the bigger picture and service delivery review is part of that -- there will be consultation formally sought for the Strategic Master Plan.

The Secretary Treasurer confirmed that the approximate 30,000 bookings of rentals in the schools will be accommodated even though the Board has closed four schools. There will be as little disruption as can be managed. (referred to a clause in the review document).

It was suggested that in the Service Delivery Review, the type of programs we may need to offer such as literacy. It was also noted that there may be funding available for offering specific programs such as those that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities are funding for, with an emphasis on recreation. City staff will research.

## 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 6.1 School District Planning & Construction Schedule

Mr. Morris only noted that the district was down to forty projects underway. He also mentioned that the timetabling of Steveston/London was being processed.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Discussion took place as to the most convenient date and time for this Committee to meet. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council/Board Liaison Committee would be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2003 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room at the school district administration offices.

**8. ADJOURNMENT****IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

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A. McKittrick, Chairperson