



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

DRAFT

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2005
9:30 a.m.

Place: 4th Floor Meeting Room
School District Administration Office

Present: Trustee L. McPhail, Chair
Trustee S. Bourque
Trustee D. Tablotney
Councillor D. Dang
Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt

Also Present: B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools
E. Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks-Programs, Planning & Design
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services *
V. Jacques, Manager, Community Recreation Services *
K. Littlewood, Recording Secretary

* Ms. Sparrow and Mr. Jacques joined the meeting at 9:45 am.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the Tuesday, April 12, 2005 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Tuesday, February 15, 2004 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING

At this point Ms. Sparrow was not in attendance and the Meeting moved to item 4.2.

4.2 Garden City Lands

Dr. Beairsto asked questions regarding consequences of the sale of these lands in terms of school requirements and how the School District will be involved in the consultative process.

Councillor Dang indicated that the amount or type of residential housing is not yet known. The School District will be kept apprised. Councillor Halsey-Brandt noted that all lands are fee simple. Discussion ensued regarding the residential density of the land as it will be more residential than originally envisioned.

Mr. Redpath noted the Land Planning Committee is going ahead and that Mr. Morris and Mr. Thorleifson, as well as City Staff will sit on this committee. Mr. Morris noted that the latest information he had is that the overall population of Richmond is rising and as such changes will need to be made to the Board's Capital Plan. Mr. Morris noted changes to the Local Government Act that requires the City to consult with the Board on each OCP change. He specifically referred to the fact the local Government Act changed on January 1st, 2001 and amended Sections 879 and 881 that required the City to consult with the Board on all OCP changes.

Mr. Morris feels we are fairly well positioned where we have schools now. However, the school district will need more details on the West Cambie area and the number of school aged children that may arise from increased residential densification in that area.

There was a discussion of school capacities. Councillor Dang indicated that all the recent development has happened so quickly and that it has never been as busy as it is now. He gave the estimated number of residential development and indicated that they have hired extra staff to keep up.

Mr. Morris stated that demographic shifts require close coordination and planning to ensure that there is adequate provision of public schools. Councillor Halsey-Brandt felt that there had not been enough consultation on both sides. She noted land use decisions would impact the School District and would like mutual contact to be part of the regular agenda otherwise there could be negative impacts later on. Mr. Morris commented on the good situation in the recent high schools by planning early and cited the Anderson/MacNeill school/park site.

Trustee Bourque explained that Richmond is seen as one unit in terms of space by this government. The City needs to understand we need to lobby together or kids in growth areas cannot fit in local area schools and will have to move somewhere else. This means traffic congestion, crowded public transit, crowded transportation corridors. Councillor Dang stated that the City's plan has always called for densification of the downtown core. In order to plan for schools, both the City and the School District have to get to Victoria to get funds. The suggestion was made to have Mr. Erceg come to a future meeting. Sandra

Bourque commented that we need to fill the empty spaces in the schools we have. Councillor Dang suggested that we lobby Victoria together. This all gets back to communication and what is proposed to be developed.

Mr. Redpath commented that the City Centre Planning area is projected to have a large population. As well, the Cook catchment is an area of growth. Trustee McPhail noted that local politicians, the City and the School District staff appear to have better communication.

Councillor Halsey-Brandt brought up growth related issues and suggested making this a standing item on the agenda. It is a way to touch base. It allows us to double check with each other and know that we are in tune.

Mr. Morris indicated that the OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy is going to Council in the next couple of weeks. Councillor Halsey-Brandt felt this was a minimum standard and we should go over and above that. Councillor Dang noted that at present all resources seem to be going towards the Oval and therefore thinning out the ability of staff to respond to other needs in the community, including consultation.

At this point the Meeting returned to item 3.1.

3.1 Master Plan/Community Working Group

Ms. Sparrow noted that on February 14th, Council approved the Community Working Group recommendations. A series of motions were approved at that meeting. There were twenty-six recommendations in the report. One of the priority areas to begin work on is the development of policies related to access and allocation of facilities and outdoor spaces. This will be done within the community. The Master Plan will be brought forward to Parks and Recreation by the end of May or June.

Dr. Beirsto noted the importance of on-going planning and community plan. We receive copies of working plans from time to time but do not know the systematic way in which the School Board is included in community planning. Trustee Bourque noted that joint meetings between the School District and City Council began in the 80's, but at present there is not a representative sitting on that body appointed by Council. There was discussion about inclusion in the planning process. Annual planning, programming, and services is facilitated through Facility and Community Organizations.

Dr. Beirsto made reference to the use of land and facilities and programs we offer the public. Mr. Morris indicated that there was a trustee representative years ago on the City's Parks & Recreation Commission. There was regular input up until approximately twelve years ago. He noted that we have an effective and efficient grasscutting block booking agreement with the City that is the envy of the

Province. Mr. Redpath noted that at the ground and operational level there is good rapport.

There was a meeting with Dr. Beairsto and other District and City staff recently and it was worthwhile. They talked of programs they have shared information over, for example, UBC rowing linking to curriculum. Mr. Jacques noted that there is fairly effective links between programming staff and individual schools especially at the secondary level. There is potential for working in a more planned way on a regular basis. Ms. Sparrow agreed and the City will commit to coming up with an effective mechanism to ensure effective communication and coordination of City and School District programs.

Trustee Bourque went over the history of Trustee and City of Richmond collaboration. Questions over the effectiveness of this body were discussed

Councillor Halsey-Brandt replied to the question of this committee's effectiveness. It is an important committee and keeps our relationship on a good level. We have common interests even though we are separate bodies.

Dr. Beairsto suggested two Standing Items for the Agenda - Land and Programming. The two items together, by being on the agenda, would force staff into scheduling their calendar and informing politicians. As an example of the importance of these issues, reference was made to reports coming from Council to the School District. When referred reports move from one body to another, they sometimes fall through the cracks and there is no status report or follow up. It was noted that the current format works well, but it is still being fine-tuned.

At this point discussion moved to item 4.1.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Children and Youth Asset Building

The issues of Youth Asset Building are not just a concern for the School District. It is many faceted, with many programs using asset building. This is an issue that is widespread throughout communities.

Dr. Beairsto indicated this program was well known to the District. All Chinese-speaking parents who attend ESL reception receive a copy of the 40 assets in Chinese. He noted, however, that an exchange of information would help to coordinate our use of this framework. Ms. Sparrow said a Leadership Team was struck consisting of Senior City representatives and the RCMP. This report is a result of that Team. "It's not a program, it's a philosophy that's cross sectoral and reaches all parts of the community." It is important for the City to show a commitment to this type of approach. Every individual in the community can do something to make a difference; be aware of how you build assets in the community.

It was suggested a formal recommendation be made to have a standing report during these meetings from the Parks and Recreation and the School District committee (yet to be named). After discussion it was decided that a regular report was not necessary and that no recommendation was needed.

4.3 **BCSTA / UBCM Program to Help Schools Become Centres of Communities**

Dr. Beairsto provided information on the BCSTA/UBCM program. While \$10 million has been announced for the program, it is not defined as yet. An announcement will be forthcoming in the fall. The money is to rent space in schools for various things in the community. At present we do not know what that might be. Trustee McPhail contacted the Chair of BCSTA and she said the same thing. Mr. Morris noted that currently our schools are used for daycare and preschools, and it is getting larger every day. It was felt the initiative for this program is coming from outside the lower mainland. Trustee Bourque questioned where the opportunity is here and if there is any likelihood that this money will be going to city schools like ours. There was discussion about the types of ways this money could be used. For example, school rehab beds or adult daycare. Trustee McPhail said there was no way to find out what the money is slated for but the key is municipal and school boards working together. Ms. Sparrow suggested that an expression of interest be submitted together. Schools would be used beyond their regular hours. Mr. Morris noted that the City are still receiving the same number of bookings although they may be at different school facilities, depending where there are evening custodians. The comment was made to define the guidelines now instead of waiting for BCSTA/UBCM to define them.

Trustee McPhail noted that the BCSTA President would be in our district at the end of the month, so would talk to her then.

5. **INFORMATION/STANDING ITEMS**

5.1 **School Planning and Construction Schedule**

A copy of the Planning and Construction Schedule was included with the agenda package. There is now an official agreement for Steveston/London. Mr. Morris noted the budget was increased from \$9 million to \$16 million, more than the entire cost of building Richmond Secondary (\$13.5M). The escalation costs have been built in. Construction will start in January, 2006, with completion and occupancy by September, 2007. Mr. Jacques enquired about considered outdoor amenities. Mr. Morris was asked what the name of the school would be. Dr. Beairsto said at present the project is referred to as "Steveston /London" but officially the name is still London. If the Board takes no action, that will be the name on the books. To officially make a change, the Board will have to go through a naming procedure after receiving the monies. Councillor Dang noted, in reference to the name, that there is a great deal of history with the name Steveston.

Mr. Thorleifson gave an update on the artificial turf at Richmond Secondary. The drainage and lamp bases are in and the curbing is coming along. There have been enquiries from community users asking about the viewing area for parents. Mr. Redpath gave an overview about viewing difficulties as they pertain to turf fields. Mr. Thorleifson said there would be a compromise once safety concerns versus viewing concerns were met. Trustee McPhail noted the operating agreement has been completed. Mr. Morris raised the issue of litter and indicated that individual users would be responsible for clean up.

Mr. Thorleifson spoke briefly about the feasibility of seismic upgrades to Garden City and Brighthouse.

Mr. Morris departed the meeting at 10:40 am.

Mr. Thorleifson noted that the plans to complete the fields at MacNeill/Anderson are going forward. The school is looking at a rugby/soccer field, a track and/or jogging path. Trustee Tablotney received a call from a student who was concerned about the wildlife in that area.

Mr. Thorleifson noted the School District had not looked into it. Mr. Redpath does have someone who looks into this. If the student is interested, they could contact Mr. Redpath. It was noted that Mr. Redpath has connected with MacNeill and he suggested there is huge potential for the science and arts stream on this property around this issue.

5.2 2010 - City's Olympic Planning Committee

Ms. Sparrow explained this project has been all consuming over the last few months. Open houses were held at City Hall last week. The VANOC agreement has been signed off with a Report going forward to Council on the program next week. The design phase has started and the plan is to start preloading in August, with construction starting early next year. The facility will be completed in April 2008. There was an explanation of pre-games use, ice making, training and VANOC use prior to opening. At present the City's focus is on post-game access for the community. Dr. Beairsto remarked on his meeting with Lani Schulz. There are three committees working on the Oval in addition to the Spirit committee with the School District being represented by Glen Kishi. His understanding from Ms. Schulz was that the primary committee that will deal with community participation in pre-Olympic and Olympic activities is yet to be formed. There is no name yet for this committee. Trustee McPhail noted there is a great pool of knowledge from teachers and students to pull from. Ms. Sparrow reiterated that the Spirit Committee deals with communication, volunteers, and community (events, festivals). The next step is to go out and champion the community, getting organizations to take things on.

5.3 School Use/PRCS Use

Mr. Redpath had no updates at this point.

It was noted the transition between Mr. Thorleifson and Mr. McLean has begun and there is frequent dialogue.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council/Board Liaison Committee would be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 in the 4th Floor Meeting Room at the school district administration offices.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the April 12, 2005 regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

L. McPhail, Chairperson