



## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor, Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Chair  
School Trustee Linda McPhail  
School Trustee Donna Sargent  
School Trustee Sandra Bourque
- Absent: Councillor Derek Dang
- Also Present: B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
E. Thorleifson, Energy & Project Manager, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
D. Semple, Director, Public Works & Parks Operations  
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks – Programs, Planning & Design  
V. Jacques, Manager, Recreation Community Services  
F. J. Ashton, Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. It was moved and seconded  
*That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006, be adopted.*  
**CARRIED**

### MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, be adopted as circulated.*

The question on the motion was not called, as the following **amendment** was introduced:

# Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

It was moved and seconded

*That Page 5 of the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, be amended to delete in its entirety the final paragraph in Section 5.2 – 2010 City's Olympic Planning Committee.*

**CARRIED**

The question on the motion as amended, was then called, and it was **CARRIED.**

## 3. BUSINESS ARISING

### 3.1 Cambie Coordinating Committee

(School District Letter: April 28/06) (File No.: 01-0100-20-CC001) (REDMS No. 1782833, 1799830)

The Secretary-Treasurer, Ken Morris, referred to the material circulated in the agenda package, and advised that the joint use of the Cambie Community Centre/School was not functioning as ideally as the School District would have liked. Advice was given that the Cambie Community Centre received 4,000 hours of program use of the school; that the school did not receive any community centre use, and that ideally, the school should have access to 1,000 hours of community centre time. Further advice was given that the Acting Principal of the school would be meeting with Area Coordinator Steve Baker with a view to scheduling 800 to 1,000 hours at the facility for next year. Mr. Morris further stated that a regular meeting of the Cambie Coordinating Committee would be held in June at which time the issue of the equitable distribution of hours would be further discussed.

Discussion took place on the matter, during which comments were made that the Cambie Committee should be encouraged to meet on a regular basis to address issues before they became problems. Information was provided that this committee had had two productive meetings and had been able to ensure that all requests could be met.

Reference was made to a statement made in the background material that the City had not been billed for its share of the heating and lighting expenses at the Cambie Community Centre/School complex for the past three years, and the suggestion was made that the Operating Agreement should be amended to allow billing on an annual basis. Mr. Morris added that he also spoken to the Director, Recreation & Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow, about the feasibility of assessing the building on a monthly basis and billing the City monthly rather than annually.

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

Mr. Morris then referred to the original request received from Balwant Sanghara and Nora Wright, on behalf of the East Richmond Community Association, for classroom space within the Cambie school. He advised that the Acting Principal had been requested to investigate the feasibility of the community association using regular classroom space where equipment, etc., would not be impacted. He stated that the outcome of the request would be reported on at a future meeting.

Reference was made to a second request of the East Richmond Community Association that the Association be involved in any project which might be undertaken regarding the old Mitchell School building. Advice was given that the English Language Services for Adults (ELSA) program had just been renewed for two years at that site; that the School District was currently reviewing the site to ensure that there were no immediate safety issues, and barring any unforeseen issues, would continue to use that building.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### **4.1 West Richmond Community Association Brief – Use of Gilmore Elementary School during the Summer Months**

(School District Letter: May 1/06) (File No.: 01-0060-20-WRC01) (REDMS No. 1795101)

Mr. Morris circulated to the Committee, copies of a School Board report (dated July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1987), regarding a YMCA Rental Agreement (a copy of which is on file in the City Clerk's Office), and reviewed the resolution adopted, which was that the "*Community Services Steering Committee go on record as (i) supporting the premise that profit and non-profit groups be considered on an equal footing in terms of remuneration being assigned to the schools; (ii) supporting the concept of the operation of child care services by profit and non-profit organizations in the community; and (iii) encouraging non-profit groups to review the initiative for the operation of child care services in local schools*". He stated that daycare services were now offered in 31 of 38 elementary schools.

Mr. Morris then reported that the School District in 2002 had been forced to lay off 28 custodians and that custodians were no longer available to open schools early in the morning because of a required 3 hour minimum call out. However, as a result of negotiations with CUPE, custodians were now allowed to open schools early in the morning for the school year only, with the minimum callout timeout being reduced to 1 ½ hours. He explained that the cost of having the custodians open the schools early for pre-school daycare would have to be incurred by the daycare service provider effective this year. Mr. Morris added that summer daycare was also an issue, and stated that if daycare providers wished to continue to operate during the summer months, the School District would work with them to cover the 8 hours per day of school facility use. He stated that any extra hours would have to be paid for by the daycare operators.

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

Discussion then took place among Committee members and staff on this issue, with the following information being provided:

- daycare operators had not had a facility rental increase since 1987; at one point, there had been an inequity in the charges being levied against daycare operators, however, all daycare operators were now on a level playing field and would now be charged per hour, per space; for some operators, this would mean an increase while others would have a reduction in the amount of rent paid
- the School District was still experiencing increased costs and it was felt that the cost of \$6 per hour for use of gym was not excessive when consideration was given to what was charged by other organizations to rent out gymnasiums within their own facilities
- City staff had had the opportunity to evaluate the financial criteria for the West Richmond Community Association which was not upset about the cost, but rather, more concerned about the impact which a three-fold increase could have on their users; if a way could be found to mitigate the increase, the Association would be able to deal with the impending increase.

During the discussion, the comment was made that the School District should not have to subsidize daycare operators and that the community associations had to understand the mandate of the School District. A further comment was made that consideration should be given to whether the provision of daycare should be a privately generated program, at the same time ensuring that the costs were fair and equitable so that the School Board would be able to meet its needs.

Concern was expressed during the discussion that the community associations were making a profit on the provision of daycare services in order to operate their programs, and the comment was made that the City needed to consider that issue. It was noted that the increase implemented by the School District had been done so after 1 ½ years of consultation with the daycare operators. Information was also provided that the School District had covered the losses for 2005, and while it was understood that the increase would be a hardship to some daycare operators, there was concern that the community associations would no longer offer before and after school daycare programs.

Further discussion ensued on the problems being faced by the School Board which must be addressed, such as the need to find space to offer new school-related programs to the Richmond student population. During the discussion, comments were made about the mandates of the School Board and the City; the on-going consultation between the City and the School Board; the many joint agreements entered into between the City and the School Board which had resulted in many programs being offered for the betterment of the children, and the need for a political discussion on this issue.

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

Also addressed during this discussion was the perception that the daycare operators were making a profit from providing their services. Information was provided that these operators were not making a profit as they had many administrative expenses which were not being charged to programs. The comment was made that this information must be shared as it was felt that the perception existed because the appropriate financial information had not been passed along to the appropriate bodies.

Information was provided by City staff about a meeting held with the Council of Community Associations presidents, and the on-going need for communication to understand the process. Advice was given that City staff would be meeting with the West Richmond Community Association regarding the daycare issue, at which time, the School Board could make a presentation so that all concerned had an understanding of the issues being faced. In response, information was provided about the many consultation meetings which had been held between the School District and the major daycare operators to explain the concerns of the District about increasing costs, and the impact of these increased costs on the School District budget. A question was raised during the discussion about whether the District should be expected to provide space within schools for daycare operators.

During the discussion, Mr. Morris circulated material listing the day care services, preschools and Montessori programs which were provided within Richmond schools. A copy of this information is on file in the City Clerk's Office. Information was provided that six daycare operators could not be accommodated within District schools; that it was not financially viable to have a daycare service in every school, and that the District had reached its maximum level for the provision of daycare services.

Copies of correspondence received by the School District from the South Arm Community Association were then provided to the Committee. The correspondence (a copy of which is on file in the City Clerk's Office) dealt with the use of DeBeck School for a kindercare and an out-of-school care program, and the payment of the Board's rental fees. In response, City staff indicated that they would pursue the matter with the South Arm Community Association.

### **4.2 OCP BYLAW PREPARATION CONSULTATION POLICY**

(COR Report: Mar. 28/06; File No.: 08-4045-00) (REDMS No. 1795397) (Forwarded for information.)

Mr. Morris commented that the new process was working well.

# Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

## 5. INFORMATION / STANDING ITEMS

### 5.1 Joint Facilities and Planning – May, 2006

(RSD - Eric Thorleifson) (File No.: 06-2050-01)

Reference was made to a statement made in the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 minutes that copies of minutes/notes of the joint City/School District staff meetings which had been held to (i) examine the various joint program initiatives, and (ii) planning in the City City, were to have been provided at this meeting. Supt. Beairsto advised that this had not occurred and that he would ensure that the minutes/notes were available for the next meeting.

### 5.2 2010 – City's Olympic Planning Committee

(COR)

Advice was given that a representative of the School Board was to be appointed to the Olympic Oval Stakeholders Committee, and that the terms of reference were currently being revised to accommodate this appointment.

Discussion ensued, with information being provided that the School Trustees of those municipalities which were to have Olympic venues had expressed an interest in getting together in the Fall, at the annual general meeting, to explore options relating to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The comment was made that discussions should be held with all school districts to ensure that plans were in place with opportunities being provided for students to participate in same way during the Games, such as through music and art.

Information was provided during the discussion that consideration was being given to the possibility of closing schools for the two week period of the Olympic Games, and that a decision on this matter would be made in 2007. The comment was made that the schools could be needed to provide venues for sleeping, cultural exchanges and other events, etc.

### 5.3 Land Committee

Mr. Morris referred to the May 2006 Construction Schedule and advised that the end of this summer would see the completion of land development at the MacNeil/Anderson school complex. He added that Ministry approval had been received by the School District to complete the remaining work on the site.

Reference was made to the replacement school for Steveston Secondary, and advice was given that the project was ahead of schedule and below budget which was now \$19 Million, and would comprise an addition to London Secondary. Mr. Morris added that when construction was completed, the resulting building would be the largest school facility in Richmond

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

The Manager, Parks – Programs, Planning & Design, Mike Redpath, reported on (i) meetings held to discuss the West Cambie Area and the implementation plan; and (ii) the commencement of the City Centre planning process. He advised that a discussion paper on City Centre facilities was currently being reviewed.

Mr. Redpath referred to Steveston Secondary, and advised that the City was interested in re-establishing the fish hatchery which had been a Steveston Secondary School project, at the City's heritage park.

Mr. Redpath also reported that the tender for the installation of the artificial turf at Hugh Boyd Park would be soon be awarded and that the work would be commencing shortly.

Mr. Redpath further advised that construction of a new baseball diamond at Manoah Steves Elementary School would commence the last week of June, and that the Blundell Elementary School baseball diamond was currently under construction.

### 6. PENDING ITEMS

None.

### 7. FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, in the Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall.

Further discussion ensued on the upcoming meeting with community associations regarding daycare and other issues, with the comment being made that it was important the representatives of these associations understood the struggles of the School Board. Further comments were made that it was important that this meeting be held on an annual basis; that the politicians be kept involved; that quality daycare be provided with everybody being a winner, and that the School District not be forced to suspend programs.

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (10:31 a.m.).*

**CARRIED**

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

---

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

---

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt  
Chair

---

Fran J. Ashton  
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office