



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2001
1:00 p.m.

Place: 4th Floor Meeting Room
School District Administration Office

Present: Trustee Gerry Retallick, Chair
Trustee Donna Sargent
Trustee Sandra Bourque
Councillor Lyn Greenhill

Regrets: Councillor Harold Steves

Also Present: C. Kelly, Superintendent
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Fraser, Deputy Secretary Treasurer
G. McLean, Manager of Facilities
D. Semple, Director of Parks
D. McLellan, General Manager - Urban Development
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Administration & Programs
D. Brownlee, Planner, City of Richmond
V. Jacques, Manager of Arenas Services
A. Flasch, Recording Secretary

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED BY L GREENHILL AND SECONDED BY S. BOURQUE:

THAT the agenda for the Wednesday, May 30, 2001 meeting be adopted with the addition of the Planning & Construction Schedule for Schools (5.2).

CARRIED

2. **BRIEFS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

3. **MINUTES**

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

THAT the minutes of the March 28, 2001 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

DRAFT 2

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Grass Cutting/Block Booking Agreement - User Fees

M. Redpath reported that at the April 10, 2001 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee Liaison, the Sports Council Task Force Report was received for information by Committee in Council. He noted they have also had an opportunity for the Sports Council to discuss recommendations in the report. About six months of work was involved with support user groups, one of the key recommendations was that the City undertake a review of policy 8701 Community Involvement Policy and our relationship with the School Board as to establishing a grass cutting/block booking agreement by the end of July. It's been recommended that all of the user fees with the City and the Board be reviewed.

Mr. Redpath also noted that the City will be looking at the whole scope of affiliations and access to facilities. They have found some anomalies with some instances where groups were paying district staff under community access to schools, and hope to address those issues in the future.

Trustee Bourque was concerned if only district staff was receiving honorariums, as there are other kinds of services or other organizations hiring people to provide specialty skills, and doesn't matter who provides them, it becomes a question of whether we are providing free space, how frequently, how much, and do we, under human rights legislation, have the right to restrict certain people from receiving honorariums. Mr. Redpath said overriding the issue is conflict of interest policy.

Trustee Bourque stated there was a difference between making money from the City (and being in conflict), and we need to be careful with things such as basketball camps, etc. and about the rules we make. David McLellan noted in one case there may be a commercial prospect, and in another a community program. Mike Redpath confirmed that, currently, if they don't confirm to the affiliation criteria, it is considered a private rental with a different fee structure.

Ken Morris stated that there is an Attorney General's report on standards of conduct, and there is a higher duty for employees to appear to be free from conflict of interest. Our employees should access public facilities in a manner equal to all other members of the public. When they use the facilities that they are also work in, it appears that they have preferential access, which is when we get into difficulties. When employees of the Board and of the City have access, they should do so as other members of public would do, and not go to those facilities that they have codes and keys to. That's when we go way over the line. Those items are discussed in the Attorney General's report. It is not, in Mr. Morris's opinion, a human rights issue.

DRAFT 3

Dave Semple entered the meeting during the above (1:10 p.m.). He suggested that guidelines should be set up and implemented, and that such can easily be done from both sides. Mr. Morris responded that the Board has passed conflict of interest guidelines, but did not pass a regulation with specificity. The district does provide guidance to staff. With experience in schools, Mr. Morris noted that staff, after working at a site for a time, tends to feel "at home" in the facility, which can lead to "boundaries" being crossed. Staff needs to continually be educated on the issue, and this is done at least once per year with a memorandum of guidance regarding employee use of Board-owned facilities.

Councillor Greenhill, on another matter, noted that Messrs. McLellan and Morris had met about revenue generation and affiliate groups, and one item discussed may have been around the idea of buying services from each other. If the idea was being considered, she asked that the Unions on both sides can be brought in at an early stage. Mr. Morris noted that he and Mr. McLellan have had conversations about sharing resources, such as graphic arts from the City with computer training from the School District, as an example. Mr. Semple confirmed that the issue will be brought up with the unions at Labour/Management meetings and may consider a joint meeting with the district. Mr. Semple assured the meeting that a formal process would be used.

Ken Morris returned to the issue of affiliated groups, in particular the Richmond Youth Concert Band, which group has previously had "affiliated" status. For whatever reason, this status has lapsed. Messrs. Redpath and Morris have discussed this, and the Board has given the RYCB approval to continue with the present fee structure until June 30th. It appears that there are two groups under the Band structure -- the "orchestra" and the "band". The band has almost 100% Richmond residents enrolled, while the orchestra has less than 60% resident enrollment, which contravenes affiliation criteria. Mr. Redpath said he has spoken to Hans Havas, President of the RYCB. Mr. Havas confirms they applied for affiliation status in 1995. However, Mr. Redpath noted that since 1997, they have gone under the assumption that Palmer Secondary is their facility, without City knowledge. The complicating factor is that district staff were being paid to run the program through an honorarium status. They are willing to reinstate the band with affiliate status, but they will be looking at the orchestra group regarding the lack of Richmond participants. Mr. Morris noted that a report will be going to the June 18, 2001 meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

Vern Jacques offered that the RYCB is a symptom of a situation that exists "out there". He said that the two staffs are creative in meeting service needs to the community, and the deeper one "digs", all the more interesting things will be found -- such as coaching, partnerships, etc. He concluded that when the issue is explored, caution needs to be used not to lose some valuable services to the community by "throwing the baby out with the bath water".

DRAFT 4

4.2 Vandalism & School Site Security

Notes of February 16 and May 15, 2001 meetings were included with the agenda package. Ken Morris noted that the joint task force has met, prior to that a meeting of district staff was held regarding initiatives. A further meeting has been planned for the joint task force, and has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Councillor Greenhill requested that it be noted that Chuck Gale is not heading up a new division of the RCMP as stated in the February 16, 2001 Vandalism Task Force meeting minutes, but is the General Manager, Community Safety.

4.3 Task Force on Drugs & Crime

Trustee Bourque was pleased to note that RADAT has been granted funding for an elementary school counsellor to work with our staff as a result of a RADAT proposal and the Board's support of the proposal. Councillor Greenhill confirmed that the funding was actually provided by casino funds, but that the Task Force initiatives were "rolling" along, and that the RADAT initiative was one of them.

4.4 Youth - Safe Meeting Places

A report from K. Sparrow on the Youth Outreach Project was included with the agenda package. Dave McLellan noted the report was reviewed and endorsed at the last meeting of the Parks Committee. He noted that the following recommendation requires access to schools as a very important aspect:

THAT Council request the Council/Board Liaison Committee to direct staff from the respective administrations to work together to develop strategies to better inform youth of the recreational, cultural and social opportunities that exist in Richmond.

Councillor Greenhill noted that one problem experienced in the past is distributing information about community programs through the schools, which was up to the individual principals to approve the distribution. She stated she would like to overcome the problem of some schools not wanting to distribute brochures, and it would be helpful if a school would at least allow the City to have posters in the schools and to allow various bodies to talk to the school. David McLellan also expressed the importance of distributing this information, targeted for youth, through the schools and community.

Trustee Bourque noted that she would bring the issue to the Board table, but did agree that there is some liability issues surrounding appearing to support an "outside" program. Dave Semple replied that in all cases of City programs, their liability coverage would be in place.

DRAFT 5

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Use of the Former Austin Harris School Site

A memorandum from the Secretary Treasurer was included with the agenda package and noted that his office receiving numerous calls from members of the community regarding the potential use of the former Austin Harris school site.

Mr. Dave Brownlee, City Planner responsible for special projects, including Steveston, and also involved for five years with the BC Packers site development was present and provided background information. He confirmed that City has received an application --put forward on behalf of the Richmond Health Services Society and in cooperation with the Steveston Academy -- for the Steveston Academy to operate a private, non-denominational school on the site. The group viewed the site as a temporary satellite school to a permanent school that would eventually develop elsewhere, or they were also interested in retaining the Austin Harris site permanently if the opportunity arose. The land is still being considered for some form of long term care facility.

Mr. Brownlee noted that as of this morning, the Richmond Health Services Society withdrew their support for rezoning until the Health Services Society Board of Directors reviewrf the situation and determinef how to proceed. Much community concern has come forward and has prompted this suspension of support. Originally, the application was proposed for 300 students, and the main concerns are traffic and parking issues in the community. Through discussion and a second outing to the community , the group came back with a reduced proposal to 225 students with a 3-5 year lease.

Ken Morris added that a wider variety of questions have been received through approximately 20-30 phone calls, with a sampling of them on the memorandum. He reiterated to all callers that the site is no longer Board-owned property, but agreed it is without question that that large number of students converging on that relatively small site will be a traffic congestion issue.

Councillor Greenhill noted that she talked with one of the PAC chairs recently regarding the process the City has regarding zoning applications and allayed some of their concerns. She said she also talked to Mr. Roy Akune of the Steveston Academy and informed him that there was no chance that the City would hold public hearing over the Summer, especially with controversial cases. A hearing in the Fall also means the issue would be an election issue. Mr. Akune said that his board would have to consider the proposal for a possible 2002 start.

DRAFT 6

Trustee Bourque noted, from the School District point of view, that, other than concerns that our name and our support had been lent, unwittingly or otherwise, to the Steveston Academy through various rumours and the fact that they rented school space to hold a public meeting, trustees may be concerned if the City were to require different standards for private schools to adhere to than public schools.

Vern Jacques asked about a rumour he had heard regarding the Steveston Academy leasing space in the interim from Steveston Secondary, and noted that the City has been contacted by the Academy regarding possible space being available at Steveston Community Centre. Ken Morris confirmed that the Steveston Academy has only rented space from Steveston Secondary School for a public meeting, and may have been renting gymnasium space during the day.

Ken Morris expressed concern that the Steveston Academy appears to be using the same "royal" colours as Steveston Secondary School. Dave Semple noted the background on this, confirming that Mr. Akune, a former Principal of Steveston Secondary School and active member of the Steveston Buddhist Church, which church also uses the colours of purple and blue, has conveyed that the colours do represent a number of meanings long held by that community.

Dave Brownlee reiterated the suspension and withdrawal of support of the land owners, the Richmond Health Services Society, to proceed until their Board of Directors meets over the next few weeks to decide how it wants to proceed. Consent of the land owner is required to proceed.

5.2 Early Childhood Development

Dave McLellan spoke to this item and circulated a memorandum from Margaret Picard dated May 28, 2001 and spoke to same. The first meeting was held with attendees including Bruce Beirsto for the School District, Jan Weaver for the Richmond Health Services Society, T.N. Foo of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Helen Davidson of the Richmond Family Place, Lydia Rozenthal of Family Services, and a representative from the Ministry of Children & Families.

The notes of the meeting are available from the office of the Secretary Treasurer, Ken Morris, or from Dave McLellan, City of Richmond. The next meeting has been scheduled for September 17, 2001.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 School District Planning & Construction Schedule

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the construction schedule, highlighting Richmond Secondary (one year ahead of schedule), Hamilton, Currie, Homma, Ferris, and McKay Elementary School projects.

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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 pm on Tuesday, June 26, 2001, school district administration offices (third floor meeting room).

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

THAT the regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Retallick, Chairperson