



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** December 18, 2007
From: Vern Jacques **File:** 11-7000-01/2007-Vol 01
Acting Director, Recreation & Cultural
Services
Re: **School Community Connections Funding**

Staff Recommendation

That Richmond City Council support a funding application for \$60,000 to undertake Phase 3 of the Union of BC Municipalities School Community Connection program in order to enhance facilities in the common area shared by Hamilton Elementary School and Hamilton Community Association and to improve public access and use of this space in a manner consistent with the current operating agreements with the Board of Education.

Vern Jacques
Acting Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
(4930)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>gs</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>rk</i>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The School Community Connections Program was developed to encourage partnerships between schools and local governments to greater utilize school facilities for broader community purposes. It is designed to promote sustainable and innovative collaboration between school boards and local governments and to take into account the needs of the community as a whole.

The BC School Trustees Association and the Union of BC Municipalities, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, jointly manage the School Community Connections Program.

Applications for Step 3 of the School Community Connections grant requires a resolution from school board and local government council/board accepting the terms and conditions of the program as set out in Schedule B. (Attachment 1)

Findings of Fact

The School Community Connections Program is divided into three components.

Phase 1. Making the Connection

Up to \$5,000 per potential "Connections" Partnership to assist school boards and local governments to make initial contact, to identify and assess the viability of embarking on a joint initiative involving the use of school facilities for broader community use.

Phase 2. Developing the Connection

Up to \$40,000 per "Connections" Partnership to support the planning of a proposed use of a new or existing school asset for broader community use. The program will fund one initiative per school district and cover planning costs associated with program assessment, delivery models, and other planning activities associated with the project.

Phase 3. Completing the Connection

Up to \$125,000 per "Connections" Partnership to support the implementation of Connections projects, by providing highly leveraged funding for start-up costs, including minor capital costs. Funding is intended to provide up to 25% of implementation costs with the balance provided by local government, school boards or other stakeholders.

Analysis

The Richmond School Board and the City of Richmond applied for and received funding for Phase 1 and 2 of the Community Connections Program and have worked collaboratively with a variety of other organizations to extend the use of Hamilton School and to advance on a broader scale the vision "for Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth" and the asset-development approach.

In Phase 1 and 2, a number of round table discussions were held to “make the connection” as outlined in the program. Through that process, discussions identified a number of key points that ranged well beyond joint use of facilities. These included:

- Communications and shared understanding of Asset Development – there is a need for an opportunity to link all organizations in helping to promote and adopt asset development in Richmond;
- Space and Facility issues – all agreed that there is potential for more extensive and/or more joint use of facilities such as school libraries, theatres, and art facilities; however the complexities of funding and the pressures on all agencies to maximize revenues was also discussed. There was a feeling that there is an opportunity for some “out of box solutions” related to space and facility needs. Through discussions, it was also identified that the two areas of the city that would significantly benefit from increased facility collaboration are City Centre and Hamilton.
- Programs – there was agreement that there is potential for more joint programming.
- Community Development and Children’s Participation – There was a sense that children are more disconnected from their community now than was the case in the past and there is an opportunity to reconnect children and community, which is important for building a sense of citizenship.

Phase 3

The way the School Community Connections program is set up is that, should a project move forward, Phase 3 would provide 25% of capital and/or other costs up to \$125,000. The remaining 75% of the project funds must come from school boards, local governments or other stakeholders.

To date, there have been a number of community meetings. These community meetings expressed a need for the following:

- Library Services,
- Youth Programs,
- Weekend and evening recreation programs,
- Improvements to existing portable for increased program space,
- Redesigning the rotunda to create a community gathering space and address storage issues.

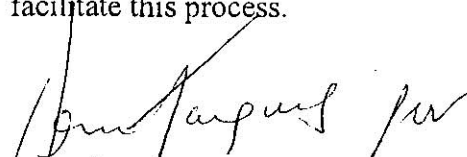
There is an opportunity to apply for funding to offset one-quarter of the costs associated with the above projects through UBCM grant (Attachment 2). It has been estimated that the cost of these projects would be \$180,000 of which the remaining funding for library services has been provided, and Hamilton Community Association has put forward \$16,000 for the extension of hours. Attachment 3 details the additional work that the grant funds would be applied to.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact for the City of Richmond at this time other than for staff to participate in the process.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond and Richmond School District have a long history of joint use of facilities for the benefit of the community as a whole. In some areas of Richmond it has become increasingly challenging to meet community need for space and facilities. New ways of approaching joint use of facilities could result in some new solutions. The provincial government, through its School Community Connections Program is offering funding to facilitate this process.



Kim Somerville
Marketing Specialist
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
(4062)

Attachments (3)

KS:vj

SCHEDULE B

SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM
"Terms and Conditions"

In applying for the School Community Connections grant jointly managed by UBCM and the BCSTA, the following terms and conditions must be agreed to by the local government and school board, and will form part of the funding agreement.

1. That, as the applicants, school boards and local governments are jointly responsible for receipt of funds and application and reporting functions, even when other agencies have been delegated responsibility for undertaking the project(s).
2. That all projects funded under this program must support the program goals of expanding and/or enhancing the use of school facilities for broader community use.
3. That funding will not be used to duplicate or subsidize existing programs.
4. That, where a funded project is not completed within a 12 month time frame, a progress report including funds expended to date, will be provided to the Program Coordinator.
5. That a final report detailing what was achieved will be prepared and submitted to the Program Coordinator on project completion.
6. That any unused funds will be returned to the program coordinator on expiry of the program.
7. That cost overages are the responsibility of the school board and local government partner(s).

Amounts spent or allocated, to date, on programs and facilities recommended from the Community Connections meeting			
Source	Item	Amount	Project Status
Rmd Library	Books and related equipment	54,000.00	Completed
	Staffing / salaries (Operating)	41,126.00	Completed
	Computer purchases	2,000.00	Not completed but budgeted for
Friends of the Library	Storage units	3,500.00	Completed
Hamilton Community Centre Association	Storage units	3,500.00	Completed
	Equipment and Furnishing	15,000.00	Not completed but budgeted for
	Teen Programming (Operating Grant)	12,000.00	Completed
	HCC Portable upgrade / equipment	6,000.00	Not completed but budgeted for
	Evening / Saturday staff (operating)	15,000.00	Completed
RSB	Admin staffing allocation (.1143)	1,000.00	Completed
City of Richmond	Design Phase	10,000.00	Not completed but budgeted for in Phase II
	Extra Weekend Custodian	12,000.00	Completed
	Pathway completion	5,000.00	Completed
Totals		\$180,126.00	

Design, renovate and furnish the entrance and lobby space (rotunda) of the school and community centre so that the community is able to use the space as a library, community gathering and program space. The work will include landscaping, lighting (interior & exterior), modifications to interior walls, and fixtures, furnishings and equipment.

		Material	Labour
Technical Services:	Design fees and disbursements to redesign the rotunda for recreation, library, school and community services and programs.	300.00	3,500.00
Flooring:	Supply and install material that incorporates a design and is easy to maintain in this high traffic area (ie Marmoleum).	5,000.00	3,000.00
Acoustic Treatment:	Supply and install panels on ceiling and walls in rotunda.	2,300.00	1,700.00
Library Book Storage Units:	Supply 2 units that display and secure books for lending library.	1,200.00	1,300.00
Lighting, Electrical & Data:	Relocate existing and add lighting, electrical outlets and data lines as required.	4,000.00	2,500.00
Computers:	Supply, install & secured computers required for on line services for accessing library and recreation services.	5,000.00	500.00
Carpentry:	Miscellaneous drywall, millwork	4,500.00	3,500.00
Bulletin Boards:	Supply & install 7 bulletin boards.	800.00	500.00
Furnishings:	Chairs, tables & program equipment	5,000.00	
Landscape:	Increase lighting to exterior of building to street and parking lot to encourage evening & weekend use of facility.	3,500.00	2,000.00
Exterior Lighting:	Increase lighting to exterior of building to street and parking lot to encourage evening & weekend use of facility.	7,000.00	3,500.00
		\$38,600.00	\$22,000.00
TOTAL		\$60,600.00	