



REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Richmond City Council
FROM: Councillor Malcolm Brodie, Chair
Planning Committee
RE: TEEN MOTHER PROGRAM

DATE: September 8th, 2000
FILE: 3070-03-01

The Planning Committee, at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 6th, 2000, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Richmond School District No. 38 Board be advised that the Richmond City Council and the Richmond Child Care Development Board support and encourage the School Board in seeking additional capital funding for the continuance of the existing Teen Mother Program in the proposed new Richmond Secondary School.

Councillor Malcolm Brodie, Chair
Planning Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that the words "and encourage" were inserted into the staff recommendation after the word "support".

STAFF REPORTORIGIN

The Richmond School District No 398 is requesting support from:

- the Richmond City Council, and
- the Richmond Child Care Development Board,

to seek funding from the Ministry of Children and Families to build space in the proposed new Richmond Secondary School in order to continue the existing Teen Mother Program (**see Attachment 1**).

FINDINGS OF FACT

- The School Board successfully operates an existing Teen Mother Program in the existing Richmond Secondary School.
- The School Board wants to build a new Richmond Secondary School.
- The Ministry of Education will not fund the capital costs of providing the space for the Teen Mother Program in the proposed new school.
- The School Board will be asking the Ministry of Children and Families for the capital funding to build space for the Teen Mother Program in the proposed new school.
- The Richmond Child Care Development Board fully supports the School Board's request (**see Attachment 2**).

ANALYSIS

- Richmond's Vision is to create the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.
- The Teen mother Program has been successfully operating for nine years.

Option 1 (Recommended)

Support the School Board in seeking provincial funding for the Teen Mother Program.

- Pro - supports efforts to continue a valuable service.
- Con - none.

Option 2 (No Support)


- Pro - none.
- Con - jeopardizes an existing benefit to Richmond residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

CONCLUSION

It is in the City's interest to support the Richmond School Board No 38 in seeking Ministry of Children and Families capital funding to continue the Teen Mother Program in the proposed Richmond Secondary School.


Terry Crowe
Manager, Land Use

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 38



(RICHMOND)

June 20, 2000

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Office of the Secretary Treasurer

Attention: Terry Crowe Manager – Land UseRe: Replacement of Richmond Secondary School

The School District received funding in the 200/2001 Capital Budget for the replacement of Richmond Secondary School with a new 1200 capacity school.

There are a number of special programs existing at the school, including a Teen Mother program; an expanded Industrial Education facility; a full print shop, plus a cafeteria. The Ministry's approval, however, is for a school with the normal floor area and budget, and does not recognize the additional 511 s.m. of floor area needed for these programs. Unfortunately, the problem is exacerbated by a recent 10% reduction in the standard allowable floor area, and a greater than 10% reduction in funding.

Despite these reductions, the Board of School Trustees has written to the Minister of Education requesting permission to build more floor area than normally permitted, in exchange for an undertaking by the Board that they will not seek additional construction funding, or on-going operating funding, for the additional area.

If approved, this will be a challenge to accomplish, and it will not be possible to construct the additional 367 s.m. of floor space required for the Teen Mum Program within these parameters. The Board will therefore be applying to the Ministry of Children and Families for capital funding to be able to maintain this program within the school. We are therefore writing to ask for letters of support from the City of Richmond's Child Care Development Board and Council for this request.

The Teen Mother program, known as the Colts Program, has been functioning for 9 years, and has given the support necessary to enable over 100 youth to complete their education. The Program provides an education program, support service, and daycare services for young pregnant and/or parenting youth in the Richmond Community. The participants are taught parenting skills, and lifeskills, as well as completing their secondary education program, and are able to develop mutual support, self reliance and strengthened self-esteem. The program is a collaborative effort from the Ministry of Children and Families, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Richmond Health Department, Richmond Youth Services, the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, and the Richmond School District.

This is the only program of it's kind in Richmond, and the Board believes that it is an essential part of the School District and the Community. We hope we will be able to have your active support in our request for additional funding.

Yours truly,

K.L. Morris
Secretary Treasurerc. Trustees
Superintendent of Schools

Terry Crowe
Manager – Land Use
City of Richmond

Dear Terry:

Request for support for Richmond High Teen Parent Program

The Richmond Child Care Development Board wholeheartedly supports the Richmond School Boards efforts to obtain capital funding to include space for a Teen Parent Program in the new Richmond High School. We would add that, in addition to capital funds to build the space, ongoing operational costs must also be considered as an integral part of the planning on the Teen Parent Program.

The combination of educational and support services and child care services for young parents is essential for its success. Quality child care spaces need to be well planned and purpose built. In this case, the proximity of the child care to the young parents is critical as it facilitates the building of relationships between parents and their children without disrupting schooling.

As the only program of its kind in the City, we believe it is very important for the Teen Parent Program to continue to operate in a physical setting which maximizes its potential for success for these parents and children.

We urge the Richmond School Board to continue to dialogue with potential partners and we hope a successful outcome will be achieved.

Yours sincerely,



Nicky Byres
Co-Chair
Richmond Child Care Development Board