

DRAFT

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE
MINUTES**Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2003
9:45 a.m.Place: 4th Floor Meeting Room
School District Administration OfficePresent: Trustee A. McKittrick, Chair
Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt
Councillor D. Dang
Trustee P. WhittakerAlso Present: L. McPhail, Trustee
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Beairsto, Acting Superintendent of Schools
D. Semple, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Administration & Programs
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
G. McLean, Manager of Facilities
E. Thorleifson, Energy & Projects Manager
L. Chappell, Recording Secretary**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA****IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the agenda for the Tuesday, October 7, 2003 meeting be adopted with the following addition:

New Business: 4.14. Communication between the School District and the City of Richmond
CARRIED**2. MINUTES****IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the minutes of the May 6, 2003 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING**3.1 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan**

Standing item. Kate Sparrow provided a handout, Master Plan 2003 Update, and gave a verbal report. The master plan is proceeding; the Community Working Group

DRAFT

has been diligent over the last number of months on "creating the future vision", i.e. focussing on the big picture, community input, community values and a shared vision. Kate Sparrow briefly discussed the phases involved. There will be an Open House on October 29th to obtain feedback from the community and various focus groups. Moving forward to the next steps, there will be an opportunity for the School Board to provide input to help identify early on what is working and what are some of the challenges. Kate Sparrow asked the School Board how they wish to facilitate future discussions. Trustee Whittaker suggested a separate meeting and Kate Sparrow agreed that they would be willing to provide a more detailed update in a separate meeting. There was a brief discussion on improving communication between the City and the School Board. Kate Sparrow said there are updates on the City's web site on a regular basis. From the School Board's perspective, Trustee McKittrick suggested that changes at the provincial level, the ever changing environment within the community, and the redefining of roles at all levels could be pertinent information to be shared with the City. Dave Semple remarked that the City has concerns around engaging the Asian community further, and that the School Board is doing a good job in this area. It was felt that the City could benefit from learning from the School District on the best ways to reach the multicultural segment of the population who rarely attend meetings. There was a recommendation that a workshop could be arranged and that Bruce Beairsto would attend as a representative, or that an alternate could be suggested. Kate Sparrow will consult with the steering committee.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 **Richmond Secondary School Move**

Ken Morris began the discussion with the desire to have the film industry use the school in movies, but there have been no firm offers in this regard. Ken Morris provided some background and then introduced Eric Thorleifson as the project manager who will be dealing with city inspectors, parents and staff.

Eric Thorleifson began his report by referring to the schedule of completion. Generally most of the construction should be completed by end of October, early November. With a Jan/Feb startup in the new building, the majority of the move will happen over Christmas break. There are some complex areas in the building requiring special consideration in moving. There is a series of events that needs to happen in a timely manner and cooperation from the City in this regard is imperative. There have been successful school moves in the past, however, as this is the largest move yet, it stresses the need to work closely together to ensure the transition is a smooth one. There will be 1200 students and 100 staff members affected by this move. Among key issues, such as temporary access into the new facility from the Minoru side, and roadwork that will need to be done, the parking issue seems to be the most immediate concern. There is limited parking now and more parking will be lost during the period of demolition. After some discussion it was agreed that Dave Semple and Eric Thorleifson will coordinate a meeting to deal with the parking issue. Ken Morris will continue to pursue demolition of the old Richmond Secondary by the film industry.

Eric Thorleifson left the meeting @ 10:00 am.

DRAFT**4.2 Cook Elementary School Expansion**

Garry McLean explained that as development continues around the city centre with the possibility of future development in the area NW of Cook Elementary, there will be a need to increase the portables at this school. There could be as many as 7 portables needed in 10 years. Dave Semple agreed that the Spires Gate / Spires Road area is fairly well open to development over the next 13 years. There was brief discussion on the poverty in this area of East Richmond around the issues of affordable housing. The food program at Cook Elementary was mentioned. Trustee McKitrick recognized that Costco, Safeway and Office Depot have recently donated products to Cook Elementary school students. She stated that a very real issue is that most people are paying more in rent, leaving less money for food and other payments, resulting in more hunger in the school system.

Ken Morris explained that moving boundaries is not practical as there are safety issues with children crossing busy streets. There was discussion around moving the high elementary grades to the new MacNeill School. Councillor Dang suggested that the City could install "dedicated" crossings for children on an as-needed basis. Trustee McKitrick remarked that Anderson Elementary and Cook Elementary are full. Ken Morris agreed that both are fully utilized with a dual track French/English program at Anderson that would be difficult to split and/or move to other locations. After further discussion around densification of the core, it was noted that an increase of 18,000 dwelling units and 8,600 school age children are projected for Richmond in the next 10 years. It was agreed that MacNeill is in a good position to serve a larger geographical area should expansion develop around No. 4 and No. 5 Road after the next Provincial election. It was requested that the MOT Lands issue appear on the next agenda.

4.3 Draft 2004/2005 Five Year Capital Plan

Garry McLean discussed some aspects of the capital plan including approved funding for Steveston Secondary in 2005/06 and an addition to Cook Elementary. Protocol under the Municipal Act states that the City responds back in agreement or otherwise and that this will be discussed further in the In-Camera portion of the meeting. The area of Hamilton as an isolated community was also discussed briefly in terms of density issues and the numbers of portables currently in use at the school.

4.4 Richmond 125 – Update

Dave Semple provided a handout on Richmond 125 Celebration Opportunities and mentioned that an additional report should be available later today which will look at an expanded program. As Richmond will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2004, a series of events are in the planning stages, such as the opening of a community park with a tree planting event, and a street banner competition with an art display unveiling. Trustee McKitrick suggested that the new high schools could be a good venue for displaying the artwork. It was also suggested that this upcoming event receive profile at a future public board meeting.

DRAFT**4.5 Parks and School Sports Field Upgrade Strategy**

Mike Redpath spoke on this issue. Of the many exciting projects slated for next year, the expansion of Garden City Community Park, the lighting projects at Minoru and Boyd, and the Terra Nova conceptual design and construction were among those mentioned. CSA upgrades on playground safety will continue at selected schools. There was talk of activity on the Middle Arm Fraser River including rowing clubs and Christmas carol cruises. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt is hoping to get the yacht clubs involved with the carol cruises and hopes to have some activity planned for this year. Trustee McKitrick suggested the great choirs in our schools could become involved in some way. Further discussion was around access to public washroom facilities at schools for sports teams, parents, etc. who are there using the playing fields. Anderson Elementary was mentioned as an example of a school that has exterior access.

4.6 "Building Capacity" for Community Development

Ken Morris stated that this paper is included for information purposes. As it is the Board who allocates resources, if there is something that the City wants done, it should come to the Board Chair for consideration by the Board.

4.7 2010 Olympics

Trustee McKitrick talked on this issue briefly and wanted to know how the School Board can work together with the City in terms of contributing in some way to the Olympic events. Trustee McKitrick expressed that students could be involved in many ways (such as employment and/or mentoring opportunities) and felt that such a culturally diverse student base be a good resource in terms of languages, etc. Mike Redpath responded that there will be plenty of opportunity to become involved and that City staff is currently looking at what other Olympic cities have done. He also stated that we have a great network of past Olympic athletes who could help spread the message within the school system. Trustee McKitrick felt it was important for the School Board to be on the ground level of planning and that involving students in some way in revenue generating activities would be of benefit. Councillor Dang asked the School Board to generate a list of available resources. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt suggested contacting School Districts in other Olympic cities and replicate what was successful. It was suggested that a staff contact be appointed to liaise with Kate Sparrow in the first stages of planning. As "the games begin here", it was suggested to keep this item on the agenda.

4.8 Sister City [City of Wakayama, Japan]

There is excitement around the 30th anniversary celebrations happening this month. Trustees McKitrick and McPhail are involved in greeting the delegation and presenting a gift to the Mayor of Wakayama. There was discussion around continuing this tradition and the importance of establishing international relationships. Trustee McPhail will send an e-mail to Sylvia Gwozd stating that the School Board is interested in forming a relationship with the school district in Wakayama. Trustee McKitrick reaffirmed that the School Board is interested in fostering a relationship with their educational portion and would be interested in meeting with the delegation in this regard. Acting Superintendent Bruce Beirsto agreed that a focus on exchange programs with Japan was a good way to foster positive inter-cultural relationships.

DRAFT**4.9 Garratt Annex**

Dave Semple began the discussion by praising the School District for the pristine condition that Garratt Annex was in when the City took over, and that maintenance staff should be commended. Currently this facility is being used by Gateway Theatre for rehearsals. Kate Sparrow remarked that the City is working to assess how this facility could be utilized by community groups and the first order of business is to get feedback from the neighbourhood as traffic issues, etc. need to be considered. There is potential of community use of more than one group of users, and that evening use of this facility is also a possibility. The City is hoping to have a decision by end of year in terms of occupancy as there are challenges with leaving this facility empty. Michael Redpath remarked that there is a group who persists in congregating in the dry spaces of this facility and have cut holes in the fence for access. The RCMP is now involved.

4.10 Street Racing Task Force

It was felt that as this item ties in with the communication aspect between City and School Board, it would be discussed further during that portion of the meeting.

4.11 Halloween – Friday Night

Dave Semple reported that the City has had meetings to ensure that there are people in the right places, and that security strategies are being coordinated with the RCMP, the fire department, and the School Board. Garry Point was suggested as a potential problem area. Trustee Whittaker suggested that proactive steps could be taken such as notifying the public through the media asking for support to ensure that problematic situations are minimized, as the cost of vandalism to school property is high. The School Board could issue statements to the high schools and elementary schools now dealing with issues such as compliance with fireworks regulations and vandalism to their schools. On a broader scale, it was suggested getting students involved in anti-vandalism campaigns, such as graffiti removal programs, could be brought back as a discussion point. Councillor Dang suggested that letters could be sent to surrounding residents to make them aware of potential crime in their communities and schools, and that block watch groups are a good idea as this helps residents feel more connected with the neighborhoods that they live in. It was mentioned that the City has a good block watch kit. Trustee Whittaker will coordinate with Trustee Hobbs on this issue as he may be able to provide more insight on the issue of vandalism and how to contain it.

4.12 BC Youth Parliament's 75th Parliament

It was requested by the Acting Superintendent Bruce Beairsto, that the recording secretary, Laurie Chappell, forward the package of information to the attention of the principals in all secondary schools in the district.

4.13 Traffic Safety & Signage Around Schools

Trustee Whittaker stated her concern with speeding traffic through schools zones and what can we collectively do in terms of slowing down traffic past schools. It was suggested that this item be coordinated through the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and that it should be added to their agenda for action. There have been programs in past years where special signs are put in place when school begins in

DRAFT

September and left for a month or so. It was felt that this was more effective than just leaving them there all year round.

4.14 Communication between School Board and City-

New item added to the agenda to discuss possible improvements in communication between both parties and to discuss the deferred item of Street Racing.

As discussion ensued on the issue of street racing, Acting Superintendent Bruce Beairsto stated that while there have been involvement in discussions at staff level, there has been no direct communication with Trustees on this issue. Trustee McKitrick agreed that the School District support what the City is doing and that we should be working together. Garry McLean said that there had been a committee formed to bring this onto the curriculum and that Greg Ponsart is the contact in this regard. There is a delegation meeting with the Education Committee on October 27th. Councillor Dang suggested that it seemed timely to strike with the recent death of the NHL player in a speed-related accident. Trustee McKitrick suggested that after the Education Committee, the issue be put on the Board agenda for December.

Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt discussed putting pressure onto the advertising industry and to car manufacturers to change their advertising, but realized that this could be a 15 to 20 year plan. Trustee McKitrick suggested that after the Education Committee and the Board discuss this issue, a formal letter will be sent to the City on where the Board stands. As Dave Semple expressed some concern about the protocol of communication between the City and School Board, Ken Morris stated the most effective route was to direct all communications to the Board Chair. It was agreed that Acting Superintendent Bruce Beairsto and Ken Morris's office will provide communication protocol to the City in memo form. Trustee McKitrick concluded that she believes the School District has a lot of issues in common with the City and that we should work towards solidifying our relationship.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule

Standing item. A copy of the Planning and Construction Schedule was included with the agenda package. Mr. McLean provided a brief update on this item.

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, November 25th, 2003 in the 4th Floor Meeting Room at the school district administration offices.

DRAFT

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the October 7th, 2003 regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

A. McKittrick, Chairperson