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## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date:** Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Place:** Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall
- Present:** Councillor, Derek Dang, Chair  
Councillor Linda Barnes  
School Trustee Linda McPhail  
School Trustee Donna Sargent  
School Trustee Sandra Bourque
- Also Present:** B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
E. Thorleifson, Manger of Facilities, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
D. Semple, Director, Public Works & Parks Operations  
G. Young, Director, Richmond Olympic Business Office  
V. Jacques, Manager, Recreation Community Services  
T. Crowe, Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning  
S. Dhaliwal, Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office
- Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. It was moved and seconded  
*That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 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, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

## **Council/School Board Liaison Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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### **3. BUSINESS ARISING**

#### **3.1 Construction Work in Tomsett Elementary Area**

(School District Memo: February 11, 2008 )

Manger of Facilities, School District No. 38 (Richmond), Eric Thorleifson advised the Committee of the impact on Tomsett Elementary School resulting from construction in the area. There were concerns associated with the storm sewage systems, safety, and access to and from the school. He further advised that in order to ensure safe access to the school for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, a six phase plan has been developed as a guide for the contractor to follow.

#### **3.2 Snow Geese on City and Board Lands**

(January 15, 2008) (File No.: 1-7200-00/Vol 01 )

Director, Public Works & Parks Operations, Dave Semple advised the Committee that the City would be working in conjunction with the Department of Transportation, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and BC Fish and Wildlife to investigate options on how to best deal with the issue of snow geese.

During the ensuing discussion about the challenges and concerns related to the large number of snow geese in Richmond, the following was noted:

- due to their travelling capabilities, snow geese posed a hazard to aircrafts;
- snow geese continued to move inland, and had caused significant damage to parks and school fields;
- there were potential health hazards from bird feces and concern had been expressed from schools, as children had been tracking feces into the school classrooms; and
- school custodial staff had been facing significant challenges related to cleanliness, and replacement of carpeting.

Further discussion took place about a letter to City staff from the Richmond Health Department, stating that feces from snow geese did not present a public health hazard. Concern was expressed, with several members of the Committee disagreeing with the statement in the letter. Comments were also made about the need to educate the public with accurate facts concerns related to bird feces.

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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City staff advised that a decision about the snow geese issue would be made subsequent to receiving all relevant information, and all possible options having been explored. Completion of the next report related to snow geese was anticipated for the fall of 2008.

It was moved and seconded

***That the report (dated January 15, 2008, from the Director of Parks and Public Works Operations) be received for information.***

**CARRIED**

### **3.3 Sale of Old Mitchell Site**

(School District Memo :February 12, 2008)

In 1998, the Board had advised the City of its intention to demolish "Old Mitchell" within five years, Secretary Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond), Ken Morris, advised that after meeting with the City, the Library, and the RCMP in 1999, the old school building on the Mitchell site was deemed as not having been needed for community uses. The School District currently used the building for continuing education programs, however due to maintenance costs and safety concerns it had been put up for sale.

During the ensuing discussion, and in answer to questions, the following was noted:

- the school building could be considered as a Heritage structure and is on the Heritage Inventory list. Steps should be taken to record its history prior to demolition;
- the Richmond Board of Education had been in contact with the Ministry of Education. The Ministry had prepared an "opportunity matching" with BC Housing, and as a result, the Board of Education was now obligated to enter into negotiations with BC Housing for provisions of affordable housing on the old Mitchell School site;
- the Richmond Board of Education would be required to dispose assets at a fair market value, and an appraisal of the Mitchell School site would be completed; and
- part of the plan for improving the traffic pattern at the new Mitchell School would include elimination of the existing access from No. 5 Road and Cambie Road.

Advice was also provided that the Richmond Board of Education had passed a motion to have a celebration for closure of the old Mitchell School site.

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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The Richmond Board of Education was requested to keep City staff apprised of the progress with BC Housing. The City expressed its interest in accessing the Mitchell School archives for any historical artefacts.

It was moved and seconded

*That the updated related to the sale of the old Mitchell site be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

### **3.4 Field Users Sports Agreement**

(School District Letter: February 4, 2008)

Reference was made to a meeting scheduled to take place between the Board and City staff about the Field Users Sports Agreement. A discussion ensued about kids sports initiatives, and how finance should not be an obstacle for children wanting to play sports in Richmond.

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

### **4.1 Youth Service Plan – Where Youth Thrive**

(Report: January 22, 2008, File No: 11-7000-05/2008-Vol 01)

Vern Jacques, Manager, Projects and Programs circulated a copy of the draft Youth Service Plan – Where Youth Thrive, and requested that members of the Board review the Plan and provide feedback.

A discussion took place, and the following was noted:

- City staff use the Board's system which contains Census and demographic data to assist in determining the demands for childcare;
- the matter of the Youth Service plan, and the request for feedback would be placed on the Board's next meeting agenda;
- any feedback received by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, could be incorporated into the plan;
- the City should consider collecting and including feedback from students;
- City staff need to collaborate with the Board to develop a strategy to capture and define the needs of the community, taking into consideration how the community is changing, and changes in population and affordability; and

## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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- Richmond's youth population seems to be decreasing.

Information was provided that during the last five years, approximately 50% of the population growth in Richmond was a result of people moving from other parts of BC.

Discussion took place about setting up a meeting to discuss demographic information and future strategic planning initiatives.

It was moved and seconded

1. *That staff develop a program for discussion of future strategic planning initiatives related to future impact of a massive demographic shift or change; and*
2. *That the findings of that discussion be forwarded to the next Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting.*

**CARRIED**

### **4.2 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Proposed 2008 Initiatives**

(For information only)

Discussion took place, and it was advised that the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Proposed 2008 Initiatives Plan addressed traffic safety issues around schools. It was noted that Victor Wei, Director, Transportation, and Alex Lee from ICBC should both be invited to the next Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting to discuss traffic safety.

### **4.3 Response Times for OCP Amendment Referrals**

(School District Letter: February 4, 2008 )

Reference was made to a letter related to a Board of Education resolution requesting that all amendments to the Official Community Plan (OCP) be directed to the Board, rather than the School Districts.

A discussion took place about the need for the City to provide the Board with adequate time to consider OCP amendment issues, and it was noted that all OCP related correspondence was to be forwarded directly to the Board c/o the Secretary/Treasurer's Office. City staff advised that further to the standard procedure of alerting the Board of OCP amendment applications after first reading, the Board would now be alerted about any OCP amendment applications as soon as they were received by the City.

## **Council/School Board Liaison Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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### **4.4 15 Passenger Vans**

(School District Memo: February 11, 2008.)

Mr. Morris advised that an email had been circulated to all School District staff, directing them not to use 15 passenger vans. Mr. Semple advised that access to three vans had been provided, however the vans could not be used for ski programs or on highways until the replacements were complete.

### **4.5 Hamilton Elementary Site - Building Envelope**

(Oral Report.)

Mr. Thorleifson, advised that the Board had been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and BC housing, and that a detailed study of the entire Hamilton Elementary facility had been undertaken. There was immediate repair work required in one particular area of the building.

### **4.6 Extra Classrooms for Child Care Purposes**

(COR - Letter: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008)

Reference was made to a letter written by Mayor Brodie, requesting the Board to consider utilizing empty classrooms for childcare purposes. Advice was provided there were no empty classrooms available in schools for childcare purposes at this time.

A discussion took place about:

- the Board's hourly rates for renting rooms;
- issues related to finding space for childcare;
- financial viability of having a daycare or out of school care program at a school;
- the costs related to operating an empty school building for childcare;
- provisions for Provincial funding of empty school buildings for daycare;
- the possibility of a population rise, and the Ministry of Education reverting daycare space school classrooms back to space for educational uses, after the Board had provided the appropriate modifications to the space for daycare uses;
- the importance of the Board sending a letter to the Minister of Education stating the facts regarding what actions the Board had taken to address the childcare issue.

## **Council/School Board Liaison Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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### **4.7 Terra Nova Montessori**

A discussion took place about the Terra Nova Montessori's space that had previously been rented, but was no longer available, and about the parents that were upset because their children had to be relocated. It was advised that parents with concerns should have been directed to speak to the School Board, and not City staff.

## **5. JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT / STANDING ITEMS**

### **5.1 Joint School District / City Management Committee** (COR – Cathy Volkering Carlile; RSD – Bruce Beirsto)

An update was not available.

### **5.2 LAND – City School Land Planning Committee** (City of Richmond School Board Land Liaison Group)

An update was not available.

### **5.3 Programs** (COR – Kate Sparrow; RSD – Bruce Beirsto)

Bruce Beirsto, Superintendent of Schools, provided updates on several projects and activities, including the School Community Connection Programs, and a grant that had been awarded for use in Hamilton. He spoke about a request that had been made to the School District to provide development content for a curriculum support site connected to VANOC, as well as activities and projects related to the Olympics.

## **6. INFORMATION / STANDING ITEMS**

### **6.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule** (RSD - Eric Thorliefson)

*Mr. Beirsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 left the meeting, and did not return (11:30 a.m.).*

## **Council/School Board Liaison Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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A discussion took place about the Terra Nova Park Salmon Habitat / Steveston London Hatchery.

### **6.2 2010 – City’s Olympic Planning Committee** (COR – Gary Young)

Reference was made to a presentation that had been made by Gary Young, Director, Richmond Olympic Business Office to the Board of Education, about the City’s Olympic Planning Committee’s draft strategic plan. Members of the Board expressed their appreciation for the clarity provided by the presentation, and thanked Mr. Young for his contribution to the Board, and Metro Vancouver.

In order for the Board to consider and prepare for the Oval’s impact on schools, City staff were asked to keep the Board apprised of all new developments related to the Oval. A suggestion was made to have a member of the Board join the Richmond Oval Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Advice was provided that at this time, the Richmond Oval Stakeholder Advisory Committee was “passive”, and not active, however, the Committee was expected to become active again in 2009, at which time the City would begin planning post games programming.

### **6.3 City Centre Area Plan** (COR – Terry Crowe)

Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning provided information about two forthcoming reports to a Planning Committee meeting in April, 2008. One of the reports would provide a summary of the implementation strategy for funding of roads and parks, and the other report would summarize protection of land for jobs, as well as issues such as sustainability and green roofs using Leed standards.

*Gary Young left the meeting, and did not return (11:50 a.m.).*

Concern was expressed about the provisions of time for the Board to review and make comments regarding the finalized City Centre Area Plan.

It was moved and seconded



**Council/School Board Liaison Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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*That in reference to the City Centre Area Plan, the City of Richmond provide the Richmond Board of Education with a timeline and a drop dead date, that would allow enough time for the Board to give thoughtful consideration to the City Centre Area Plan and provide comments.*

**CARRIED**

**6.4 LAND – OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy**  
(COR – Terry Crowe; RSD – Ken Morris)

A discussion took place about the possibility of the City and the Board participating in discussions related to the Metro Vancouver's Growth Strategy, as well as the possible timeline for a draft of the Strategy becoming available.

**7. PENDING ITEMS**

None.

**8. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The next Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 9:30 a.m., in the Anderson room at City Hall.

**Council/School Board Liaison Committee**

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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**ADJOURNMENT.**

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (12:10 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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Councillor Derek Dang  
Chair

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Shanan Dhaliwal  
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office