



## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall  
Present: Councillor Linda Barnes, Chair  
Councillor Linda McPhail  
School Trustee Donna Sargent  
School Trustee Debbie Tablotney (9:28 a.m.)  
Absent: School Trustee Rod Belleza  
Also Present: Councillor Chak Au  
Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### AGENDA

It was moved and seconded  
*That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, January 18, 2012, be varied to deal with Agenda Item No. 4 first, and be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### MINUTES

It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

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### 4. **TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT GARDEN CITY**

(Verbal Report – RSD – Sean Harrington, Principal, Garden City Elementary)

Victor Wei, Director, Transportation, spoke about ongoing concerns related to speeding vehicles along Garden City Road in front of Garden City Elementary school, noting that since Garden City Road is an arterial road, the current speed limit is 50 km/h. He also noted that in an effort to mitigate the concerns, crosswalks had been installed, the vegetation on the road side had been cleared, and school stakeholders had initiated an education initiative.

Mr. Wei continued by advising that the latest idea to address the safety concerns related to the speeding traffic was to create awareness of the existing school zone signs by adding flashing amber lights at each of the signs during heavier traffic times before and after school to remind drivers that they are in a school zone.

Mr. Wei also stated that the RCMP had been consulted about the matter, and it was determined that reducing the speed limit on Garden City Road would not be effective as it is an arterial road, and drivers would not adhere to the speed limit, as studies show that drivers tend to ignore signs once they become accustomed to them.

In conclusion, Mr. Wei advised that meetings with the Principal and Vice-Principal of Garden City Elementary for a site meeting would be taking place.

Sean Harrington, Principal, Garden City Elementary, expressed the following concerns:

- a study undertaken in September 2010, concluded that the traffic volume along Garden City Road was approximately 10,000 cars, with an average speed in the north middle lane of 56 km/h and 57 km/h in the south lane;
- recently, the RCMP volunteer traffic safety monitors conducted a study at Garden City Elementary, monitoring traffic for a half an hour before and after school, and ascertained 24 license plates of speeding vehicles with speeds up to 80 km/h;
- Garden City Road runs parallel to the school's major play area; and
- students from Palmer Secondary School have a tendency to hit the button on the crosswalk and just walk out, as they believe they have the right away.

Mr. Harrington, also stated that a 30 km/h speed zone would be more desirable, however, if it is not feasible, he would like to see another traffic study conducted within three to four months after the installation of the proposed flashing lights. In conclusion he requested that the flashing lights and signage be placed before the section of the pedestrian crosswalk.

A discussion then ensued amongst members of the Committee, Mr. Harrington and City staff about:

- ineffectiveness of V-Calm as daily drivers tend to ignore such signage upon realizing what it is not enforceable. It was noted that V-Calms provide a short-term immediate solution only, or are effective in areas that are travelled by occasional drivers;
- concerns related to driver confusion resulting from additional signage and flashing lights on the road;

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- the need for driver awareness and the feasibility of promoting the awareness in the newspapers;
- the City's action plan and a forthcoming verbal report from the RCMP on pedestrian awareness, which is anticipated for the next Community Safety Committee meeting;
- safety concerns related to pedestrians who use headphones in traffic areas;
- the feasibility of reducing the speed limit in the area. It was noted that it is appropriate to reduce speed limits on an arterial road if a large pedestrian volume is present, Garden City Road is fairly quiet for most of the day; and
- timing of the installation of the amber flashing lights. It was noted that the lights would be installed before the spring.

During the discussion, Mr. Wei was requested to provide the Board with information related to traffic awareness week for communication purposes, as well as an update on the matter at the next Council/ Board Liaison Committee meeting. It was also noted that the minutes from the next Community Safety Committee meeting pertaining to the RCMP pedestrian awareness report be forwarded to the Council/Board Liaison Committee for information.

### STANDING ITEMS

1. **JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT / CITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
(COR – Dave Semple; RSD – Monica Pamer)

The notes from the Joint School District/City Management Committee meetings held on September 8, 2011 and January 6, 2012 were reviewed.

It was moved and seconded

*That the Joint School District / City Management Committee notes for the meetings held on September 8, 2011 and January 6, 2012, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

2. **PROGRAMS**  
(COR – Vern Jacques; RSD – Monica Pamer)

The notes from the City of Richmond/School District No. 38 Joint Program Committee meeting held on November 8, 2011 were reviewed.

A discussion ensued about Physical Literacy Programs at community centres and the difference between physical literacy and physical education and activity. A suggestion was made to approach the Intercultural Advisory Committee about the Physical Literacy Program.

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School Trustee Donna Sargent commended City staff for their collaborative effort with the Board regarding education about Halloween safety, and noted that the integrated approach made Halloween a success.

Vern Jacques, Acting Director, Recreation, advised of a forthcoming update on Sports For Life, and staff were requested to provide an update on Snow Geese at the next Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded

*That the City of Richmond/School District No. 38 Joint Program Committee meeting notes held on November 8, 2011, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

### **3. SCHOOL PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

(Verbal Report – RSD – Clive Mason)

Clive Mason, Manager of Facilities, SD 38, noted that the following construction projects had been completed: (i) the Full-Day Kindergartens, including the Hamilton location; (ii) Brighthouse Elementary School; (iii) the Neighbourhood Learning Centre; and (iv) the Community Garden.

Mr. Mason advised of the upcoming envelope remediation at Hugh Boyd Secondary, noting that two areas on two floors were currently boarded off as the finishing had been stripped to remove mould. The finishing repair work is anticipated to begin in the summer and be completed by the fall. Mr. Mason noted that the unrepaired section is unused, and inaccessible.

It was moved and seconded

*That the verbal report on the School Planning and Construction Schedule be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

## **BUSINESS ARISING & NEW BUSINESS**

### **4. TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT GARDEN CITY**

(Verbal Report – RSD – Sean Harrington, Principal, Garden City Elementary)

See Page 2 for action taken on this matter.

### **5. RICHMOND EARTH DAY YOUTH SUMMIT 2012 (READY SUMMIT)**

(COR – Cecilia Achiam)

Wendy Lim, Assistant Superintendent, and Cecilia Achiam, Interim Director, Sustainability and District Energy, provided background information on the Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit 2012 (REaDY Summit), as well as details related to the various roles of the youth involved in the Richmond School Student Green Teams.

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Ms. Achiam noted that the Summit would be led and facilitated by youth, with oversight from a steering team and support from School Board and City staff. The goals of the Summit include fostering continual interest and raising awareness on sustainability issues identified by local youth, building new skills in facilitation, exchanging ideas with community leaders, and learning from leading practitioners in various disciplines in the sustainability field. The youth involved in the Summit will gain skills in facilitation, pursuing sponsorship opportunities, working with media to promote the event, and assisting in identifying and securing speakers for the workshops.

It was moved and seconded

*That the City of Richmond be requested to consider:*

*That the City endorse and continue working with the Board of Education for the development of the Richmond Earth Day Youth Summit 2012 (REaDY Summit) program.*

**CARRIED**

### **6. HAMILTON ELEMENTARY – REPAIR TO BERM**

(Verbal Report – RSD – Mark De Mello)

A discussion ensued about the required repairs to the Hamilton Elementary berm, and Mark De Mello, Secretary Treasurer advised that a stairway would be constructed to allow students to egress from the building. Discussion also took place about the forthcoming report on planning and community roads in the Hamilton Area Plan, and the Board requested that the matter to be placed on an upcoming Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting agenda. City staff were requested for input and assistance on the long-term planning of the berm.

It was moved and seconded

*That the verbal report on the Hamilton Elementary - Repair to Berm be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

### **7. COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL SPACE**

(Verbal Report – RSD – Mark De Mello)

A discussion ensued about:

- the School Board's current review of the rental rates for use of school space;
- several social services groups seeking school sites to use for their programs; and
- the current practice between the City and School Board relating to City use of school space, and the need to continue working together to find a common solution.

It was noted that the matter would be brought forward to a future Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting upon the completion of the review, which is anticipated by May, 2012.

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A discussion also took place about the Social Planning Strategy. City staff noted that the Strategy would be reviewed prior to presentation to City Council. Staff was directed to place the Social Planning Strategy on the Council/Board Liaison Committee agenda.

### **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE STAFFING AND POLICY** (RSD – Nancy Brennan)

Nancy Brennan provided an update on the current status of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre, noting that an open house had been held in November, 2011. She also noted that the Centre had originally generated interest from community groups, however, none of the interest had yet manifested into rental requests.

Discussion ensued about:

- the list of rates for the rooms at the Centre, and it was noted that although the prices were low, smaller groups expressed concerns that the prices were too high;
- the feasibility of community groups working together and booking rooms simultaneously for cost-sharing purposes;
- promotion of the Centre throughout the City, including rental brochures with prices and pictures of the rooms;
- long-term objectives for the Centre to ascertain long-term repetitive tenants;
- initiating discussions with the School District on the governance of the Centre;
- the feasibility of involving the City's Senior staff in assisting the Board with ideas for the operation of the Centre, as well as continued promotion;
- the original focus of promoting literacy through the Centre; and
- the feasibility of having another open house to promote the Centre, as well as approaching multicultural groups.

It was moved and seconded

*That the City of Richmond be requested to consider:*

*That City staff work with School Board staff on ideas for the operation of the Neighbourhood Learning Centre.*

**CARRIED**

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### 9. LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN

(RSD – Mark De Mello)

Mark De Mello, Secretary Treasurer, reviewed the Long Range Facilities Plan. A discussion ensued about issues related to various locations listed in the Plan, and about how the Plan was viewed as a high priority by the Board of Education in their effort to be proactive. Also, it was noted that the City would be invited to attend two public open houses which are planned to take place in February 2012. It was suggested that a presentation be made by the Board to City Council through the Planning Committee about the Long Range Facilities Plan.

It was moved and seconded

*That the City of Richmond be requested to consider:*

*That the Steveston Secondary lands issue be referred to the Planning Committee for information.*

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded

*That the City of Richmond be requested to consider:*

*That the Richmond School District Long-Range Facilities Plan be received for information, and be referred to the Planning Committee for information.*

**CARRIED**

### 10. YOUTH SUPPORT WORKERS / ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH

(Verbal Report – RSD – Kathy Champion)

Kathy Champion, Director of Instruction, provided background information on each member of the Adolescent Support Team, and spoke about the benefits realized from the formation of the Team. She noted that although Youth Support Worker positions were lost, the creation of the Adolescent Support Team has created more cohesion, synergy, and capacity in supporting adolescents.

A discussion ensued, during which questions were raised about whether there was a “gap” in current services, and if so how those gaps would be measured. It was noted that Vancouver Coastal Health would be involved in identifying gaps. Staff was directed to keep the matter on the agenda, but under the following title: “Adolescent / Mental Health Outreach and Identifying the Services”.

It was moved and seconded

*That the City of Richmond be requested to consider:*

*That the matter of Youth Support Workers / Adolescent Mental Health Outreach be forwarded to Vancouver Coastal Health by the City’s Liaison for discussion.*

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It was moved and seconded

*That the verbal report on Youth Support Workers / Adolescent Mental Health Outreach be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 (tentative date) at 9:00 a.m. in the Anderson Room

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (11:35 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the City of Richmond Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

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Councillor Linda McPhail  
Chair

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Shanan Dhaliwal  
Executive Assistant  
City Clerk's Office

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