

Extract From:

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

1. **CHILD POVERTY ISSUES & INITIATIVES IN THE RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mr. Foster spoke of the 2011 Census and noted that since much of the data collected by a Statistics Canada was gathered by a voluntary survey, the findings may not be as qualitative. Also, Mr. Foster noted that the long-form questionnaire will no longer be mandatory.

Ms. Pamer provided background information and noted anecdotal findings indicate that the perception of children living at or below the poverty line vary greatly across the District's schools. It appears that there are pockets of needs throughout the City and as a result, it is challenging for the School District to target its resources in the most cost effective manner.

In reply to a query from Committee, Ms. Ayers stated that she was not aware of any grants available for child poverty concerns. However, Ms. Ayers noted that there may be partnership opportunities for programs such as breakfast clubs with community centre associations.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that although child poverty matters are concerning, they do not fall under the School District's or the City's mandates.

Mr. Semple stated an inventory of what is currently being done at the City and at the School District would be valuable and aid in the coordination of both groups' efforts in relation to child poverty.

Discussion further took place and it was noted that statistical information and access to such information in regards to child poverty is limited, as is. A suggestion was made to hold a forum that would be open to all members of the community interested in addressing child poverty.

As a result of the discussion, the following **referral** was introduced:

That Richmond City Council consider:

(1) ***That the report to the Richmond Board of Education titled Child Poverty Issues and Initiatives in the Richmond School District, dated September 17, 2012 from the Assistant Superintendent be referred to staff:***

(a) ***for analysis; and***

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- (b) to examine what is being done at the City and at the School District, including comments from the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee and the Poverty Response Committee and report to the appropriate City Committee; and*
- (2) That staff report back to the Council / School Board Liaison Committee by Spring 2013.*

CARRIED