



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: April 3, 2024
- Place: Electronic meeting by teleconference
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Alexa Loo, Chair
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Trustee Ken Hamaguchi
Trustee Heather Larson
Trustee Donna Sargent
- Also Present: Steve Ahluwalia, Richmond School District No. 38
Lorraine Anderson, City of Richmond
Elizabeth Ayers, City of Richmond
Evangel BIASON, City of Richmond
Peggy Chen, City of Richmond
Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond
Chris Duggan, City of Richmond
Dorothy Jo, City of Richmond
Ravinder Johal, Richmond School District No. 38
Catherine Jule, Richmond School District No. 38
Jane MacMillan, Richmond School District No. 38
Maryam Naser, Richmond School District No. 38
David Sadler, Richmond School District No. 38
Cindy Wang, Richmond School District No. 38
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of April 3, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on January 31, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS

1. **TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

City staff briefed Committee on Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) activities, noting discussion regarding the traffic flow in and out of R.A. McMath Secondary School during drop off/pick up times, for which the school principal will be working with the School Board on options to alleviate the issue, e.g. signage.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal report on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee be received for information.

CARRIED

2. **CHILD CARE UPDATE**

City staff provided a brief update on the Child Care Strategy currently under development with the City, noting that engagement is now complete and staff are finalizing the draft priorities, actions and community profile, which will go back to Richmond City Council later in the spring for approval in principle, followed by a second round of broad public engagement on the draft strategy. Additionally, appreciation for the District's assistance with Child Care Strategy project was expressed.

In recognition of Child Care Month this May, City staff further noted the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, in partnership with Richmond Public Library and the Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives - Child Care Resource and Referral Program, are currently planning the annual Child Care Symposium, taking place on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The symposium will focus on supporting Richmond families and will include information with regards to Indigenous Ways of Knowing and practices in relation to families supporting new immigrants and refugees.

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With respect to the professional development grant under the Richmond Child Care Grants Program, City staff noted (i) there will be a second round of grants as there were no applications received during the initial intake, (ii) this grant is for the purpose of providing broad professional development to the community, (iii) there are a limited number of organizations that typically apply for this grant that were not able to apply in the first round, and (iv) the City is currently accepting applications and information is available on the City's website.

In response to queries from the Committee, City staff noted (i) unutilized grant funds are returned to the child care operations reserves, with new funds to be requested each year, and (ii) the symposium is typically marketed to child care providers and early childhood educators and families, but also open to anyone in the public that would like to attend.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on Child Care be received for information.

CARRIED

3. JOINT CITY AND DISTRICT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

City staff advised there is nothing to report as the Committee has not recently convened. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for April 24th and that an update will be provided at the next meeting.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair noted an accessibility update was recently received at the City's General Purposes Committee meeting. A copy of the update will be provided to the School Board as part of the partnership with the City in addressing accessibility.

5. 2024 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

City staff advised (i) the report provides information on the 2024 follow-up to transportation initiatives and is also an overview of the 2023 accomplishments. Of interest, a summary of the 2023 cycling education for students in grades 6 and 7, totalling 18 elementary schools/1800 students, received the cycling schools training, delivered in partnership with Hub Cycling. The annual program ensures all elementary school students receive the training over a two year cycle.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on 2024 Active Transportation Initiatives be received for information.

CARRIED

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6. **2019-2029 CULTURAL HARMONY PLAN: 2022-2023 UPDATE**

City staff provided a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file, City Clerk's office) on the City's Cultural Harmony Plan, with specific focus on the recently completed two year update report which highlights the notable achievements the City has accomplished in fostering cultural harmony in the community over the past two years. It was noted that (i) the Cultural Harmony Plan includes 27 recommended actions under five strategic directions: intercultural connections, collaboration in partnerships, targeted training and professional development, communication and community engagement, and programs and services, (ii) the update highlights the unique challenges faced by newcomers, the need to reduce barriers to their participation, and opportunities for the City to play an important role in providing targeted support, (iii) in 2023, the City endorsed the Richmond Community Protocol, a Richmond based resource designed to help organizations and community members respond to incidents of racism and hate, (iv) the City now has a dedicated webpage for newcomers featuring resources such as the newcomer video series the newcomers guide to Richmond, which showcases newcomer stories and the resources available to those newly settled in Richmond, both available in 8 different languages to ensure City related information is accessible to diverse cultural and linguistic groups, and (v) the City recognizes the need to continue to work closely with community partners, such as the Richmond School District, to strengthen intercultural connections, provide culturally relevant programs and services, and to remove barriers for participation for Richmond's diverse community members and residents.

In response to a query from the Committee, City staff noted that a large part of the City's Cultural Harmony Plan is to work in collaboration with partners to enhance intracultural harmony and to provide relevant services for newcomers, which includes working collaboratively with the Richmond School District settlement workers team as support workers who provide help to newcomer students and their families (e.g., the recent work on revamping the City's newcomer bus tour program).

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on the 2019-2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022-2023 Update, be received for information.

CARRIED

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 (tentative date) at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (9:20 a.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 April 3, 2024.

Councillor Alexa Loo
Chair

Lorraine Anderson
Legislative Services Associate
City Clerk's Office