



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
Present: Councillor Linda Barnes, Chair
Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt (9:06 a.m.)
School Trustee Donna Sargent
Absent: School Trustee Debbie Tablotney
Also Present: School Trustee Linda McPhail
Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded
That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 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, May 19, 2010, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt entered the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 were received for information purposes.

2. **PROGRAMS**
(COR – Vern Jacques; RSD – Nancy Brennan)

Vern Jacques, Acting Director, Recreation advised that one of the focus topics at the Parks Recreation / School District Managers meeting was to market and promote the notion of healthy living, and that the next meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2010.

3. **SCHOOL PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**
(RSD –Mark De Mello)

Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities, reviewed the school planning and construction schedule.

Mr. Thorlieffson advised that a tender process was currently underway for construction on the Anderson Elementary site. He noted that modular units were being considered for all other sites, and that the School Board was working with the Ministry of Education to select a modular unit provider.

A brief discussion took place about safety related issues with regard to the placement of the modular unit at the Anderson Elementary site, and some challenges were noted, including the importance of the placement of the unit in order to ensure visibility to the RCMP when driving by. Dave Semple, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, advised that City and Board of Education staff would present visual material for review or if possible visit the Abbotsford demonstration site, for the next Council/School Board Liaison meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING & NEW BUSINESS

4. **PARKS & REC / SCHOOL DISTRICT MANAGERS MEETING**

See Agenda Item No. 2.

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5. YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER FOLLOW-UP

(Oral report - RSD – Kathy Champion)

Kathy Champion, Director of Instruction, Learning Services, advised that follow up was currently being conducted on: (i) an assessment of the impact of the loss of service; and (ii) the impact of the new service that was created this year. She further advised that consultation was underway, and currently at the stage of compiling the data. She also mentioned that names of all students would remain confidential.

Vern Jacques noted that it was anticipated that a comprehensive report on the matter would be presented to City Council in February 2011.

6. SPECIAL PURPOSE TASK FORCE

(Oral report – RSD – Mark De Mello)

School Board Trustee, Linda McPhail advised that the Board of Education had sought direction from the Ministry of Education with regard to dealing with properties to prioritize and develop a plan.

School Board Trustee, Donna Sargent noted that Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning had attended a meeting, and had provided helpful information related to demographics, changes to the Official Community Plan (OCP), and other City initiatives. She also noted that Board of Education and City staff had been working very well together.

7. FULLY DAY KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

(RSD – Nancy Brennan)

In answer to a query, Eric Thorleifson advised that the Board of Education used a sophisticated demographics system to track information that would allow the Board to be apprised of changes in school population or other demographics, and that projections for the next five years had been established.

Discussion took place about the change in use of school playgrounds resulting from full day kindergarten students, and it was noted that staff from the Board of Education and the City's Parks and Recreation Department would research the matter. A suggestion was made that consideration be given to accommodating children up to six years of age with a designated play area.

ACTION: A progress report regarding Play for children 0-6 years of age, be provided at the next Council/School Board Liaison meeting.

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8. **UBCM - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY – 2010 SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ROUND 2**

Eric Thorleifson advised that Brighthouse Elementary had been chosen for Round 1 of the 2010 School Community Connections funding opportunity, and that the potential project for Round 2 was for the continuation and expansion of the Richmond Secondary Garden Program.

He noted that training and support was needed on how to use the garden, and that the garden program allowed for integration of seniors and youth, as well as an opportunity to work with the Food Security Task Force.

A brief discussion took place about a proposed garden for the roof of the Richmond Cultural Centre,

ACTION: That a letter of support for the Richmond Garden Program be written from City staff with a copy to City Council.

9. **THE CITY OF RICHMOND – 2010 RECREATION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS SYNDICATED SURVEY**

Vern Jacques advised that although citizens in Richmond have indicated that they are satisfied with the quality of recreation services, there is still a need to improve the opportunities for physical activity.

A discussion ensued during which it was noted that many students have indicated that they prefer opportunities for individual fitness such as yoga, rather than being on a sports team, and that many Community Centres offer such individual opportunities.

ACTION:

1. An electronic version of “The City of Richmond – 2010 Recreation and Physical Fitness Syndicated Survey” be sent to Eric Thorleifson.
2. City staff to provide the findings of the The City of Richmond – 2010 Recreation and Physical Fitness Syndicated Survey to Community Associations, as well as the Richmond Communities Committee.
3. Vern Jacques to research programming at South Arm and Cambie Community Centres.

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10. 2010 – 2011 TWO WEEK SPRING BREAK – CHILDCARE CONCERNS

Nancy Brennan, Assistant Superintendent advised that Elizabeth Ayers, Manager, Community Recreation Services, was researching the feasibility of provisions for a camp during the second week of spring break.

A discussion took place about:

- the demands for childcare during spring break, and a comment was made that due to the two week break, it was anticipated that some parents may take time off work to be with their children and to travel;
- the importance of working as a district to promote opportunities for childcare; and
- the notion of having a two week spring break every year, and the process related to making such a change to the school year calendar.

ACTION: A review of the experience of having a two week spring break period be provided at the June 2011 meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee.

11. CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT

(RSD – Kathy Champion)

Kathy Champion shared the finding of a review that had been undertaken last spring, stating that the review affirms the importance and value of career opportunities for students and the review also provides suggestions for goals and strategies, as well as how to attain goals.

She continued by stating that reaching younger students and families earlier provided them with more time to consider multiple pathways for success. She then spoke about the draft implementation plan and highlighted the following key points:

- reinstate a Career Counselling Committee composed of community members and stakeholders;
- communicate earlier and enhance the use of multi-media tools to give people opportunities to explore many pathways;
- enhance and create valuable apprenticeship programs and provide alternate hours to allow flexibility for community participation; and

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- consider co-op opportunities that allow flexibility in the manner that credits are used.

- ACTION:**
1. Refer the Career Education Programs Report to City staff for their comment and participation.
 2. Kathy Champion to provide Dave Semple, Councillor Linda Barnes, and Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt with a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Career Education Programs Report.

During the discussion it was suggested that a Union Representative be placed on the proposed Career Counselling Committee.

12. **RICHMOND SPORT FOR LIFE STRATEGY 2010-2015**

(COR – Dave Semple)

A discussion ensued about:

- the connection between social media and physical activity as well as the difference in physical literacy in comparison to physical education;
- the involvement of the sports community in the composition of the Richmond Sport for Life Strategy 2010 – 2015, as well as the level of commitment and support; and
- the feasibility of physical literacy programs at the pre-school level.

During the discussion, it was noted that the City would be sending a letter to the Minister of Education emphasizing the need to include mandatory physical education in the curriculum for all grades. Committee members agreed that the letter might have more impact if it was written by both the Board of Education and the City.

ACTION: That the letter to the Minister of Education emphasizing the need to include mandatory physical education in the curriculum for all grades be referred to the Board of Education for comment and feedback.

13. **SNOW GEESE – UPDATE**

Dave Semple provided an update on the matter of snow geese, advising that the current flocks in Richmond and Delta number approximately 60,000 rather than the anticipated 90,000 – 100,000. He also advised that thus far hazing efforts had been successful, and that anyone needing the services of the contractors for hazing may call the Parks and Leisure line at 604-244-1208.

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 (tentative date) at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Education building.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (10:35 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, November 17, 2010.

Councillor Linda Barnes
Chair

Shanan Dhaliwal
Executive Assistant
City Clerk's Office