



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2008
- Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Derek Dang, Chair (Items 1 to 6.5)
Councillor Linda Barnes (Items 6.6 to 9)
School Trustee Linda McPhail
School Trustee Donna Sargent
- Absent: School Trustee Sandra Bourque
- Also Present: B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
(arrived 9:46 a.m.)
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
E. Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities
T. Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning (arrived 9:33 a.m.)
V. Jacques, Acting Director, Recreation and Cultural Services
D. Semple, Director – Parks & Public Works Operations
K. Sparrow, Acting Director, Richmond Olympic Office
Hanieh Floujeh, Committee Clerk
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. It was moved and seconded
That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, September 23, 2008, be adopted as circulated, with an amendment to add under New Business, as 4.2, Early Learning Initiatives.

CARRIED

MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Traffic Initiatives – Errington

(RSD – Update – Oral Report)

Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities, reported that the School District had not yet received a conceptual plan anticipated to come forward by the City's transportation division.

Mr. Thorleifson distributed information (copy on file, City Clerk's Office) on alternative transportation to and from local schools during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The program, called 'Active Travel to School (Feb/Mar 2010)', is aimed at reducing traffic congestion at 100 elementary schools near 2010 Winter Games venues. Mr. Thorleifson advised that the program has a significant cost, but wished to bring it forward for information purposes.

In reply to several queries, Mr. Thorleifson stated that he believed the program would have good benefits, and advised that the program will be further investigated.

Discussion ensued and questions arose regarding (i) costs, (ii) City of Richmond / School District No. 38 (Richmond) collaboration, and (iii) comments from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. As a result of the discussion, it was noted that the handout would be forwarded to the Director of Transportation and the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for comments.

In light of the discussion, it was also noted that Errington Elementary is anticipating a solution to the traffic issues within the 2008/2009 school year and this program may not be suitable.

3.2 CCAP Implementation Strategy Highlights

(RSD – Update – Oral Report)

Ken Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, stated that the Board has requested a new elementary school in the City Centre, in addition to the Dover site request. The Dover site was purchased through a land exchange with the City and it is a good acquisition, however, consideration has been given to relocate within the City Centre, in proximity to the Oval, or other areas expecting higher density.

Mr. Morris also commented that Tomsett Elementary is experiencing growth, in part due to growth in the West Cambie area.

Mr. Morris noted that support from the provincial government is lacking as enrolment continues to decline due to demographic shifts and various other reasons. The current enrolment rate is negative 294 District wide for 2008/2009.

In reply to several queries, Mr. Morris advised that a meeting is due to review the current timeline and to discuss the next steps required to acquire a new elementary school in the City Centre.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning, highlighted that lower enrolment allows for flexibility within the timeline to acquire a new elementary school in the City Centre.

It was noted that the new provincial capital policy introduced by the Ministry of Education lacks clear and definitive direction for Boards of Education, therefore, the policy must be read and interpreted carefully to determine what can be done in order to address short, medium, and long term needs.

3.3 Redevelopment of Brighthouse School and Population Growth in Hamilton

(COR – Update – Materials attached)

Vern Jacques, Acting Director, Recreation and Cultural Services, briefly spoke of a past meeting between Mr. Morris and himself regarding two potential projects. During the meeting, Mr. Morris advised that Brighthouse Elementary was due for a seismic upgrade, and indicated that the difference between the cost estimates for the upgrade and for a new facility were marginal. Mr. Morris also noted that the new school would be constructed while the other remained in operation, thus reducing school disruption. Mr. Jacques advised that community needs consultation has begun in the Hamilton area.

Mr. Jacques also mentioned that growth in the Hamilton area is likely to impact the need for more school space. Mr. Jacques concluded that discussions between school officials and the City is ongoing regarding the two sites.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Neighbourhoods of Learning

(RSD – Update – Materials attached)

Mr. Morris referred to a news release, dated September 3, 2008, by the Ministry of Education, regarding a new pilot project called 'Neighbourhoods of Learning', aimed at bringing education and community services together under one roof.

Mr. Morris spoke on difficulties groups may encounter while attempting to adopt this new model, such as francophone groups who primarily rent school space. The Neighbourhoods of Learning concept comes with a new policy that inhibits school districts from disposing of school properties unless approved by the Ministry of Education. The School Building Closure and Disposal policy also requires boards of education to consider the needs of all students in the district and to consult with community and education partners about the best use for surplus school space.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. Morris mentioned further complexities that may arise due to these new initiatives, in particular in conjunction with Early Learning Initiatives, whereby approximately 700 kindergarten children will attend school all day.

A request was made that the topic of Neighbourhoods of Learning and the related School Building Closure and Disposal policy be placed on the next agenda for the Council/School Board Liaison Committee to seek further clarification and provide Committee with updates.

Bruce Beirsto, Superintendent of Schools, spoke on critical maintenance issues that many provincial districts face, in particular Vancouver, and was of the opinion that the new policies are strategic ways for districts to deal with such concerns.

Mr. Beirsto also emphasized the importance of matching processes between School District No. 38 (Richmond) and the City of Richmond in order to simplify decision-making on future plans.

It was highlighted that the School District has a history of consulting with the City of Richmond and community organizations to best utilize surplus or underutilized school space, such as at Cambie, Boyd, and McRoberts Secondary schools.

4.2 Early Learning Initiatives

(RSD – Update – Oral Report)

Mr. Morris mentioned that there have been ongoing discussions by the Ministry of Education regarding full day kindergarten. Mr. Morris spoke of various concerns related to such an initiative such as its impact on daycares, staffing costs, and adequate training for staff.

Mr. Beirsto offered that many regions in Ontario have similar programs and have received much feedback regarding complexities around facilities, staffing, and training. More information regarding this matter is anticipated after the general local and school election.

It was mentioned that the Board was asked to provide feedback on how the potential initiative would affect their district. A letter outlining ideas and concerns was sent to the Ministry of Education.

It was also noted that Richmond Children First hosted a community wide consultation and had personnel from several daycares and community centres attend. The comments made at the consultation have been collated and sent to the Ministry of Education.

The Board has also been asked to provide comments to the BC School Trustees Association, who will be meeting at the end of October 2008. It is anticipated that the comments, from all provincial school districts, submitted to the BC School Trustees Association be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. Beirsto advised that there are approximately 55 out-of-school care programs and should this initiative take place, it would push people out of the space used for such programs. Mr. Beirsto also commented on the fact that school is dismissed early in the afternoon, thus requiring parents to hire some form of childcare from the time school is dismissed to the time they arrive home from work.

As a result of the discussion, the Board offered to forward their letters and external feedback and other related correspondence to City Council and the Manager of Policy Planning for information purposes.

5. JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE / STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Programs

(RSD/COR – Update – Oral Report)

Mr. Beirsto advised that the group continues to meet regularly and has had themed meetings, for instance a past meeting's theme was sustainability. Mr. Beirsto also mentioned that the meetings enable mutual awareness and act as information centres and not action centres.

6. INFORMATION / STANDING ITEMS

6.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule

(RSD – Update – Oral Report)

Mr. Thorleifson provided updates on several schools and the following was noted:

- MacNeill Secondary – the parking lot construction has been completed and landscaping for the new parking area is underway;
- Steveston-London Secondary – the addition/renovation has been completed, all areas of the building are now in service and landscaping is underway;
- Cambie Secondary – the building envelope remediation's design and construction documentation has been completed and the project is currently awaiting completion funding;
- Brighthouse Elementary – the final feasibility study has been submitted and support to replace the school, versus a seismic upgrade, has been expressed;
- Garden City Elementary – the project (seismic upgrade) is out to tender with the closing date of October 9, 2008;
- McKinney Elementary – the building envelope remediation has been completed;

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

- Ferris Elementary – the building envelope remediation has been completed;
- Hamilton Elementary – the building envelope remediation is underway; and
- Mitchell Elementary – the demolition has been completed.

Dave Semple, Director of Parks and Public Works Operations, advised that the City's legal department was preparing the access agreement for Steveston-London Secondary. Mr. Thorleifson addressed Mr. Semple's concerns and advised that landscaping was underway and the propane tank would be removed shortly.

6.2 2010 – City's Olympic Planning Committee (COR – Update – Oral Report)

Kate Sparrow, Acting Director, Richmond Olympic Office, commented that things are moving very quickly at the Richmond Business Olympic Office (ROBO), especially since the completion of the Beijing Games. Ms. Sparrow advised that ROBO has received numerous phone calls from different groups inquiring about the O Zone. She continued to say that after meeting with the Canadian Olympic Committee, it appears that Richmond, Vancouver, and Whistler activation plans will soon be underway.

Ms. Sparrow noted that the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games would be much different than those recently held in Beijing. In order to engage residents, businesses, and students, programs such as 'Adopt an Athlete' will be introduced. Another program Ms. Sparrow spoke of was called 'Paint the Town Red', where everyone wears red. The program is targeted to showcase local support whether it is on the streets or in the stands. Ms. Sparrow indicated that this would be a good opportunity for students to be apart of an activation team, which helps generate excitement throughout the city. Ms. Sparrow spoke of other programs aimed at engaging students such as student created banners that will be placed throughout the athletes' village.

Ms. Sparrow highlighted that several athletes have tested the ice at the Oval and feedback has been positive.

Ms. Sparrow also mentioned that John Mills has been named the General Manager of the Oval. She advised that an official announcement regarding the Oval opening is anticipated soon. City personnel are working with various organizations to ensure student participation and involvement for the Oval opening ceremonies.

Ms. Sparrow noted that this year's WinterFest would be moved to the Oval in order to test programming along the dyke.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. Sparrow offered that Volunteer Richmond has been contracted to oversee the 2010 Information and Volunteer Centre. The Information Centre will serve as a focal point for the City's volunteer recruitment, training, and placement of Games-related volunteers. Ms. Sparrow identified the Information Center as a great volunteer opportunity for secondary students.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of experience students would have during the 2010 Games and the following was noted:

- the Ministry of Education has created a website as a tool for teachers to engage students;
- Richmond students will remain in school throughout the Games and consideration should be given when planning opening times of sites such as the O Zone;
- students should be inspired and truly embrace the Olympic spirit; and
- the Paralympic Games will also offer opportunities for students.

In reply to several comments made in the above discussion, Ms. Sparrow advised that City personnel are looking at creative ways to engage students and working collaboratively to ensure students have the best experience possible. However, the City's resources at present cover only projects set out in the City's strategic plan. A suggestion was made that funding may be explored through other sources such as grants.

6.3 City Centre Area Plan

(COR – Update – Oral Report)

Mr. Crowe advised that the City Centre Area Plan (CCAP) is not yet approved. Staff is awaiting approval from the province on the complementary development cost charges bylaw and once that's received, the Plan will be placed on the next immediate Council meeting agenda.

6.4 LAND – OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy

(COR – Update – Oral Report)

Mr. Crowe advised that while drafting the CCAP, the School District was asked to comment and in light of the proposed density, voiced the need for a new elementary school within the City Centre. Mr. Crowe further advised that rezoning applications within the City Centre do not need to be brought before the District, however, OCP amendment applications that could affect the number of children in the area would be forwarded to the School District.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Crowe remarked that the City would forward both types of applications to the District as a courtesy.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

6.5 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES: Special Events – Recycling; Mandatory Recycling for Private Park and Event Rentals

(COR – Update – Oral Report)

Margot Daykin, Sustainability Manager, Corporate Programs Management Group, advised that five interdepartmental teams have been created to look at the overarching framework of action initiatives to move towards a strategic management program. Ms. Daykin highlighted that action initiatives have been linked to specific objectives, thus simplifying measuring results. It was also noted that this format allows for flexibility to adapt over time.

Ms. Daykin also mentioned that a team is working on a Triple Bottom Line Guide book. The guide will be tested in the organization prior to finalization and its intent is to help integrate triple bottom line decision making in an organization. Ms. Daykin then offered a copy to the School District.

In reply to a query, Ms. Daykin advised that staff is working with the University of British Columbia and Environment Canada in finalizing the green house gas inventory.

Ms. Daykin mentioned that the City has a Sustainability Speakers Series, where speakers with different expertise provide insight on sustainable related topics. The next speaker will speak on the reality of green and affordable homes. Ms. Daykin then commented that the City has and would continue to extend invitations to the School District to participate in various sessions of the City's Sustainability Speakers Series.

A brief discussion ensued regarding sharing ideas on sustainable measures such as a green purchasing plan.

Mr. Morris spoke of the Sustainability and Education Academy (SEDA) article on the Richmond school district and advised that Steveston-London Secondary is hoped to be the first secondary school in Canada to be recognized as attaining Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating.

Councillor Dang left the meeting and did not return (11:17 a.m.).

Councillor Barnes assumed the role of the Chair (11:17 a.m.).

6.6 LAND -- REDESIGNATION OF THE SOUTH MCLENNAN LANDS

(RSD/COR – Update – Oral Report)

Mr. Morris advised that consultants have been hired to provide a report on the seven properties in the South McLennan area.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. Crowe advised that this project would require an OCP amendment bylaw and offered that constructive comments have been made on a range of town homes with contributions for affordable housing or land to build a child care facility. Mr. Crowe noted that the School District will have an opportunity to evaluate options set out and once one or two options have been identified as favourable, the idea would be presented to Council.

6.7 Olympic and Paralympic Support

Please see Page 6 of these minutes for discussion on this matter under Item 6.2.

7. PENDING ITEMS

None.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 4, 2008**, in the Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting dates and it was noted that the next meeting is an anomaly. As a result of the discussion, the following motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee hold meetings on the third Tuesday of every second month.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (11:22 a.m.).

CARRIED

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008.

Councillor Derek Dang
Chair
(for Items 1 to 6.5)

Hanieh Floujeh
Committee Clerk

Councillor Linda Barnes
(for Items 6.6 to 9)