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## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Derek Dang, Chair  
Councillor Linda Barnes  
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)  
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
E. Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities (9:55 a.m.)  
D. Semple, Director – Parks & Public Works Operations  
V. Jacques, Acting Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
K. Sparrow, Acting Director, Richmond Olympic Business Office (10:10 a.m.)  
T. Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning  
D. Chan, Manager, Transportation Planning  
F. J. Ashton, Recording Secretary
- 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, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, be adopted as circulated.*

The question on the motion was not called, as the following **amendment** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded  
*That the following matters be added to the agenda as additional items under New Business – Item Nos. 4.2 and 4.3 respectively:*

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- (1) *Daycare Programs; and*
- (2) *Public Health Inspectors and Fundraising.*

**CARRIED**

The question on the motion, as amended, was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

### MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3.1 Public Forum on Snow Geese (Update – Oral Report)

The Director, Parks & Public Works Operations, Dave Semple, provided the following information:

- a public forum had been held two weeks ago, with approximately 50 people in attendance, which included representatives of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the airport and the City
- Dr. James Lu of Richmond Health Services reiterated previous statements made that the Snow Geese did not pose a health problem
- as a result of discussion at the public forum, staff were directed to develop a program to alleviate the snow geese problem
- a meeting will be held with representatives from the airport, the Canadian Wildlife and the City of Delta to deal with what had been determined to be resident snow geese in the City, as well as to address the safety issues which these birds have created for aircraft entering and leaving the Vancouver International Airport.

Discussion then took place among Committee members and staff on the snow geese problem, during which the following was noted:

- parents and children were not aware of this issue, and communication to the public was needed as quickly as possible
- a great deal of damage to local school fields and parks had been caused by the snow geese

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- custodial staff were spending a great deal of time replacing carpets and cleaning bird feces from sidewalks and play areas around the schools
- if the snow geese situation was to become an annual problem, School District and City staff needed to work more closely together to deal with this issue
- Mr. Semple would ensure that a School District representative would be included on airport committee which had been created to develop ways in which to deal with the snow geese
- maintenance of fields needed to be addressed; City staff were currently reviewing the worst hit areas; advice was given that there would be no jurisdictional boundaries and that maintenance would be undertaken as needed.

Reference was made to the pathways leading to many of the schools in the City, and to the amount of feces left by the snow geese on these paths. Information was then provided on equipment owned by the City which could remove this feces from the pathways. In concluding the discussion, School Trustees and School District staff were requested to email Mr. Semple with the location of problem areas and pathways.

### 3.2 Traffic Safety Awareness Initiatives

(Update – Oral Report)

The Manager, Transportation Planning, Donna Chan reviewed the following Traffic Safety Awareness initiatives with the Committee:

- *Safer Traffic Around Richmond Schools (STARS) -*
- *BCAA School Safety Patrol Program*
- *School Zone Traffic Safety – on-going programs*

(A copy of Ms. Chan's presentation is attached as Schedule A and forms part of these minutes.)

In concluding her presentation, Ms. Chan sought School Board support on the following issues:

- ongoing complaints to the City and local schools about parents dropping off/picking up students around schools
- as the result of the added traffic from a Montessori program established two years ago at McKinney School, numerous complaints had been received from local residents because parents parked and blocked driveways, as well as being parked illegally; an on-site drop-off/pick-up program was not in place

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- Diefenbaker school used to have an access off of Fortune Ave, but that access was now closed and created problems on the public road with parents using the road for drop-off/pickup; the school principal indicated that the needed funding was not available to deal with the onsite issue.
- a gate had been erected at Tomekichi Homma school which was closed at pickup time, which pushed the problem onto the public road as parents blocked private driveways.

Ms. Chan suggested that the School District could help by taking into consideration the traffic problems related to:

- the pickup and drop-off of students when increasing programs which bring students from out of area, such as the Montessori program in schools;
- requesting schools not to gate and close off parking areas, and
- the implementation of regular school programs which would encourage walking or cycling more than one day or one week a year.

Reference was made to the concerns voiced by Ms. Chan with respect to specific schools, and the comment was made that these concerns could be brought forward by the School District representative on the Traffic Advisory Technical Committee to the appropriate School District staff so that the issue could be resolved in a timely manner. It was noted that the examples provided by Ms. Chan had a long history and that there were reasons as to why gates had been installed.

Discussion then centred around the problems being faced by schools in endeavouring to have parents walk their children to and from school each day rather than driving them. It was noted that these behavioural issues were now being exacerbated by the increased focus on environmental issues, such as the increase in air pollution which resulted from idling vehicles sitting in front of schools. Reference was made to the establishment of a City task force to deal with environmental issues and it was noted that the School District had also focussed its attention on this particular issue. Questions were raised as to the feasibility of examining these issues under a broader environmental umbrella.

During the discussion, it was noted that Errington Elementary School was interested in improving traffic circulation around the school and that School District staff may be approaching the City within the next short while for assistance on this matter.

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Reference was made to the installation of two “V-calm” devices on Woodward’s Road by the Jesse Wowk school, and comments were voiced about the need to ensure that parents were aware of this program. As a result of the discussion which ensued, during which the suggestion was made that this program should be highlighted either through the local newspapers or through the School District, the following motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

*That City Transportation staff be invited to attend a future School Board meeting to provide an update to the Board on Traffic Safety Awareness Initiatives.*

The question on the motion was not called, as discussion continued on how these traffic safety initiatives could be communicated to Richmond parents, such as creating a page on the School District web site, dedicated to traffic safety around schools, with suggestions being offered on what parents or school personnel could do to address problem areas.

*(Eric Thorliefson entered the meeting – 9:55 a.m.)*

Discussion also took place on:

- the closure of gates at Diefenbaker and Tomekichi Homma schools, the need for the flow of traffic in and out of school parking lots, and the dangers which the closed gates posed to children in relation to traffic safety
- with reference to environmental issues and traffic safety, the suggestion that any communication should highlight the continuing benefits of walking to school as well as the success of those schools which had ‘walk to school’ programs
- the perception that some schools were better than others which resulted in parents were moving their children to these schools; if parents could be made to understand ‘equality’ of neighbourhoods by choosing to walk their children to school, these parents would become familiar with their neighbourhood;
- the proposed City Centre Area Plan and the intention to encourage walking or bicycling throughout the city centre, especially if their destination was within 400 to 800 metres of a Canada Line station
- with respect to Errington Elementary School, it was noted that that school was located in the middle of its neighbourhood, with fencing around the school; the roads leading to the school were fairly wide but were not delineated to provide safe areas for pedestrians and cyclists; also needed were speed limit signs; a number of issues had to be addressed to enable walking or cycling to school

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- the action taken by the City and the School District could create a sense of community to address sustainability goals of both organizations; many physical issues would have to be addressed on the roads, including gates and signage, to make it clear that pedestrians and cyclists shared the road with motorists
- the feasibility of developing a map for each school, which could be distributed to students, which indicated the area around the school, along with information on safe walking routes; reference was made to the City's "Way Finding" maps for its trail system (every trail had a sign posted to show the way along the trail), and the suggestion was made that this system could be incorporated into each neighbourhood
- the feasibility of providing information at the beginning of each new school year to a school's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) which outlined the objectives and goals of that school, such as building a sense of community by encouraging parents and their children to walk to school; also by addressing the need to develop a community feeling through school newsletters
- the importance of the role of the PACs in the success of the 'walk to school' programs; the success of Maple Lane school related to its PAC which promoted walking to school every Wednesday; however other schools were not as successful because parents were afraid to leave their children at the school until the teachers had arrived, which results in vehicles idling for long periods of time or being illegally parked.

*(Kate Sparrow entered the meeting at 10:10 .m., during the above discussion.)*

During the discussion, concern was voiced about the negative impact which had resulted from encouraging people to make choices, and how in celebrating choice and encouraging choice, the merits of a neighbourhood school had not been highlighted. Further comments were made that while students seem to feel connected to their schools, they did not feel connected to their communities, and it was felt that a big part of this disconnection was because everyone drove everywhere and did not take the time to walk through their neighbourhoods.

The question on the motion was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

It as moved and seconded

*That City and School District staff connect and find areas of cooperation regarding the City's sustainability and climate change initiatives.*

Prior to the question on the motion being called, the request was made that this matter be added to future Council/School Board Liaison Committee meetings as a 'Standing Item'.

The question on the motion was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

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### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Garden City Elementary Seismic Work**

(Update – Oral Report)

The Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond), Ken Morris, reported that approval had been received for the seismic work to be undertaken on Garden City Elementary School. Advice was given that six portable classrooms would be relocated from London School to the fields surrounding Garden City Elementary.

During the discussion which ensued, School District staff were requested to work with City staff to ensure that the portable classrooms placed on the fields at Garden City Elementary did not impact the baseball diamonds. Reference was made to the seismic work to be undertaken, and information was provided that the upgrade would be to the interior of the school, that students from six classrooms at a time would be relocated to these portable units while the seismic work was being completed, and that the school would not be closed during this work. Further advice was given that the Continuing Education programs would not be impacted, however, City programs which take place in the school could be disrupted. In response to questions about how the user groups would be advised of any disruption, advice was given that because it would be City programs which could be affected, the responsibility would lie with the City to communicate with the user groups on this matter.

#### **4.2 Daycare Programs**

Reference was made to recent media reports about the daycare situation in Richmond schools and to material circulated by Mr. Morris to Committee members, which addressed this matter in greater detail. He noted that the number of daycare centres in elementary schools had increased to 50 in 31 schools, and were now at the point of saturation. Mr. Morris then spoke about the conflicts which could occur if the School District if a daycare or childcare program was established at Hamilton Elementary because of the program currently offered at East Richmond Community Centre, as well as other similar situations. He also provided information on the request received from School District staff to introduce a daycare program into a school for their children, and added that the challenge would be find an empty classroom and an operator.

Mr. Morris also reported on a discussion which he had had with the Chair of the Child Care Advisory Committee to update her on the number of daycare and childcare programs which were currently provided in Richmond schools.

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A brief discussion ensued, during which comments were made about the satisfaction which the School Board received with respect to the services provided by the District to Richmond residents. Advice was given that the information contained in Mr. Morris's memorandum would be passed onto the Mayor and City Council for their information so that they would be aware of the work being done by the School Board.

As a result of the request, the following **motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

*That the memorandum (dated April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, from K. L. Morris, Secretary Treasurer), regarding Daycare Programs in Public Schools, be provided to the Mayor and Council, as well as to those City staff members who deal with the provision of daycare facilities in the City.*

**CARRIED**

Reference was made to the inaccurate information contained in recent newspaper articles about the provision of daycare in Richmond schools, and discussion ensued on such matters as: the confusion between the daycare and child care services; the complexity of providing child care services in schools, i.e. salary, rates charged, etc.; the community services which outside organizations provided in local schools free of charge, and the need for additional daycare and child care services in the City. During the discussion, advice was given that City Council had given approval to undertake a new needs assessment for child care to determine 'supply and demand', and City staff intended to include the School District in that process.

### **4.3 Public Health Inspectors and Fundraising**

Reference was made to the issues which had arisen as a result of new regulations put into place relating to the preparation of food in schools and public places, such as in canteens at baseball games as fundraisers, and a question was raised as to whether local PACs had voiced concerns to the School District about these new regulations.

Discussion ensued, with advice being given that while the School District had not received any complaints about the new regulations, the staff person in charge of the Food Safe training would be encouraging parents to take the training. Further information was provided that City staff would be meeting with Medical Health Officer Dr. James Lu on this matter and would request that School District staff be invited to the meeting.



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During the discussion, questions were raised about the degree to which the new regulations would impact the community. Reference was also made to another issue which related to school fundraising barbeques and hotdog sales, and the need to have a certified food safe trained individual on-site. School District staff were requested to advise the City if the new regulations were found to impact school fundraising activities.

### **5. JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT / STANDING ITEMS**

#### **5.1 Programs**

(COR – Kate Sparrow; RSD – Bruce Beairsto)

Supt. Bruce Beairsto reported on two upcoming program meetings to be held which would focus on Olympic opportunities and the schools; that a series of after-school in-service meetings would be held which would involve School District staff. He added that the Olympic Program Committee continued to meet and talk about opportunities on an on-going basis.

Questions were raised about the status of the Literacy Plan program, and in response, information was provided about a public meeting which had been held which had an excellent key note speaker, but had been poorly attended by the public. Further information was provided that the meeting had been intended as a 'launch' for the Literacy Plan and most likely would not become an annual event. As well, information was provided that the School District would be preparing a report on this program would form part of the District's 'Achievement Contract'. In response, the request was made that this report be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee.

### **6. INFORMATION / STANDING ITEMS**

#### **6.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule**

(RSD - Eric Thorleifson)

Eric Thorleifson reviewed the April, 2008 construction schedule with the Committee. He reported that the contracts for the design and construction supervision of the building envelope remediation for the Hamilton Elementary and Cambie Secondary schools had been awarded.

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Reference was made to the status of the former Mitchell School building, and advice was given that the School District had applied for a permit to demolish the old facility. Further information was provided that the land on which the old building had been erected would be subject of future discussions with the Land Committee once the site had been cleared of debris. Information was also provided on changes which would be made to the existing building with respect to the construction of a new entrance which would front Greenland Drive. It was felt that the relocation of the school entrance would help to alleviate the traffic safety issues at the intersection of No. 5 Road and Cambie Road.

### 6.2 2010 – City’s Olympic Planning Committee (COR – Kate Sparrow)

The Acting Director, Richmond Olympic Business Office, Kate Sparrow, reported that a number of information sessions would be taking place over the next few weeks with School District staff regarding the development of festivities to celebrate the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. She also advised that on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, City Council had approved the 2010 Operational Strategic Plan which would help City prepare for its role as an official Venue City for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. She stated that the main goal now was to complete construction of the Olympic Oval to ensure that it was fully operational and in ‘program mode’.

Ms. Sparrow also reported that staff were also working on the post-Games Legacy planning, however, details were not yet available on the plans for the grand opening of the Oval facility.

She then reviewed a number of other Olympic-related initiatives, including the Arts and Cultural Program, which will provide opportunities for local artists and arts programs to participate in events occurring during the Olympic period, as well as to encourage the development of the local arts community through new funding programs, special events and other activities. Reference was made to the Home Stay Program, and advice was given that this program would provide opportunities for local residents to host families of coaches and athletes of speed-skating events as they came to practice during the time prior to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Also reviewed were the ‘Main Street Shopping’ program and the 2010 Information and Volunteers Centre program.

Discussion then took place among Committee members and staff on (i) the introduction of Olympic-related topics into the general student curriculum, and (ii) the importance of legacy planning. Also addressed was the Strategic Operational Plan, and a component of that Plan, which was to focus on arts and cultural opportunities for the City. Advice was given that to accomplish this, a Cultural Development staff person would be hired to work with artists and cultural groups, etc., to help facilitate a connection with the VANOC events, such as the opening and closing ceremonies.

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Reference was made to the possible use of Richmond facilities prior to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and information was provided that it might be possible that sponsors and other individuals and organizations may want to rent facilities. Advice was given that an inventory of facilities which could be available had been prepared, however, as a rule, requests would be handled directly by the owner of the facility in question. During the discussion, concern was expressed about a possible 'wave of requests' occurring following the completion of the 2008 Olympic Summer Games. Advice was given that the School District was currently seeking a legal opinion regarding the use of school gymnasiums when school was in session and whether the School District would allow the gymnasiums to be used.

Reference was made to the closure of schools for the 2010 Spring Break, and advice was given that the Provincial Ministry of Education had made the decision that spring break would be March 8 to 12, 2010, and that for Richmond, the second week of Spring Break would be from March 22 to 26, 2008, following the completion of the Paralympic Games.

The discussion concluded with comments being made that the School Board and City each wanted the 2010 Olympic Winter events to be the best experience not only for local students but also for everyone who either lived in or visited Richmond during the Winter Games. School District staff were also congratulated on taking the lead to develop curriculum which would support the Olympic events.

### 6.3 City Centre Area Plan (COR – Terry Crowe)

The Manager, Policy Planning, Terry Crowe, advised that City staff were still preparing the actual area plan documents, however, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, the Planning Committee considered the Implementation Strategy report, and following a lengthy discussion, referred the report to a workshop for a more detailed and in-depth review of the proposed area plan, including the proposed increase to the City's Development Cost Charges Bylaw. Also referred to the workshop was a staff report entitled "Private Developments And Leed Within The City Centre Area Plan And Green Roofs Throughout The City". Mr. Crowe indicated that he would provide the School District with copies of both reports and added that he and Holger Burke would be happy to review these documents with the School District.

*(Kate Sparrow left the meeting at 11:15 a.m., and did not return.)*

Mr. Crowe then advised that staff intended to present the City Centre Area Plan to a Public Hearing in July, and that City staff would appreciate the comments of the School District and Board prior to the public hearing. He indicated that the Area Plan document would contain a sentence that the City and School Board were working together regarding the development of a new elementary school.

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With reference to the inclusion of a new elementary school within the City Centre, advice was given that City staff would be meeting with the School District to explore possible locations for the new school. Discussion ensued on this matter, with advice being given that the School Board wished to be consulted directly through Council rather than staff. Reference was made to the Implementation Strategy report, and advice was given that the Implementation Strategy report should be provided to the School Board for its information and review. Mr. Crowe then reiterated his offer that he and Mr. Burke meet with either School District staff or the Board to answer all of their questions about the proposed City Centre Area Plan and all issues related to that plan, including DCCs, etc.

Questions were raised as to what point the School Board would be required to make policy decisions to ensure that the City did not put a plan into place which would limit School District initiatives, especially with respect to possible locations for new schools, the type of school to be constructed, etc. In response, information was provided, that the proposed City Centre Area plan accommodated the existing schools, and that part of the review was to determine if a new school would be required. Discussion then ensued on the various options which might be available to accommodate a new school, as well as on the size and type of structure which might be considered, and the timing of discussions on this issue. Also addressed briefly was the need to replace the existing Brighthouse Elementary School.

*(D. Sargent left the meeting at 11:25 a.m., and returned at 11:31 a.m., during the above discussion.)*

### **6.4 LAND – OCP Bylaw Preparation Consultation Policy** (COR – Terry Crowe; RSD – Ken Morris)

Advice was given by Mr. Crowe that City staff were endeavouring to compile all of the Official Community Plan amendments which involve residential development, and hoped to send two different letters on this matter to the School District for comment. He added that the goal at the present time was to complete the City Centre Area Plan process.

### **6.5 Enhanced Smoke Free Areas**

Advice was given that City Council had adopted recommendations relating to 'Enhanced Smoke Free Areas' which take effect on November 30, 2008, and that the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee, at its meeting to be held later today, would be dealing with a report on 'Dogs in Parks'. Staff were requested to provide the School District with a copy of both reports for its information and comment.

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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, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, in the Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall.

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (11:37 a.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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Councillor Derek Dang  
Chair

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Fran J. Ashton  
Recording Secretary