SHARK – March, 2010 MINUTES
School Board /City Council Joint Task Force

Present: Ramona Coey (Chair), George Buri, Marty Snelling, Ken Fitzpatrick, Murray Blight

The following items were listed for discussion from the last meeting:

1. School Bus Program – Consensus was the Shop/Home Ec Bussing Program is a mutually beneficial Program
   Agreed – The school division will send a letter of request to continue the Program on an ongoing basis

2. Single Track French Immersion Update – Trustees informed City Council Representative that as publicly advertised there will be two public information evenings this week regarding the 2010-2011 school configuration changes (Harrison Tuesday, March 23 and New Era, Thursday, March 25th). Discussion led to updates on the Green Acres Roof Replacement as well as the recommendation for catchment area changes in the 2011-2012 school year. The councilors were advised, there would be community consultation regarding the proposed changes in April.
   Agreed – The school division would request Senior Administration forward a copy of the proposed changes to the City, attention City Council

3. Youth representation – **No discussion**

4. Plastic bag recycling – Trustees informed Council that River Heights School has a student committee focused on environmental projects and that Council has been invited to contact Principal John Minshul about a potential partnership.
   Agreed – Councilor Blight will contact River Heights School

5. Football scoreboards – Trustee Snelling offered an update – the boards are in and the feedback from the community has been that they work great and are appreciated. Discussions led to the need to update indoor school boards. The lack of interest from Coke to replace them and potential other community groups/businesses to sponsor them.

6. IT dark fiber ring – Trustees provided an update regarding the agreement to further explore the Dark Fiber option between BSD and Westman Communications Group.

7. Riverheights School pick-up and drop-off problems – It was agreed this was a past item that no longer needed attention.

8. Services to immigrants and aboriginals – Trustees updated councilors on the EAL center and BSSAP programs approved through the budget process. Trustee Snelling expressed concern with regards to two recent expulsions and the increased gang activity in the city.

9. Housing – Trustee Coey addressed the concern raised during the FI debate and the new high density, low income housing development at the Massey Building and the perceived lack of communication with the school division on the potential increase in students and space at catchment area schools. Trustee Blight referenced communication forwarded to the board following our Board/Council Dinner – communication is directed to the Secretary Treasurers Department on potential housing issues.

   Clarification – Are all housing issues/development forwarded to the Facilities and Transportation Committee.

10. Speaker's bureau – The committee agreed that given that this year is an election year and the importance of municipal elections as well as the civic duty to vote the committee would be available for a speaker's bureau to any interested schools.

    Agreed – Committee members would query the remaining trustees and councilors to see if they would be interested in participating in speaker's bureaus. BSD Committee members would request senior administration forward to the school communities a list of trustees and councilors who would be available for a speakers bureau should any of their classes be interested.

11. No Stopping Zone @ Ecole New Era School – Brought to the committee from a concern raised by a staff member at Ecole New Era School. Given the size and grade configuration of the school, the two 15 min loading zone parking spots in front of the school are inadequate. There are a significant number of spaces to the east of the school that are designated no parking (stopping okay), it would alleviate some of the parking issues if a 15 minute loading zone replaced the no parking zone. Councilors advised that since we are the only property affected by the request that we should request The Board of Trustees send a letter requesting the change to the Traffic Advisory Board, Attention Ted Snure.

    Agreed – Trustees would request the Board of Trustees forward a letter to the Traffic Advisory Board making the request.

Additions:

12. Playgrounds – There are currently three school communities upgrading their playgrounds. Trustees inquired as to whether there were any city funds to assist in the projects. Councilors advised that they take direction from the parks and rec department and that school playgrounds did not fall under their mandate.

Councilors advised that the next HUB expansion (Linden Lanes) would be the next recreation project. Trustees inquired as to whether the city had received the formal consent from the School Division to continue with the Linden Lanes HUB expansion.

Agreed – Trustees would inquire with BSD Senior Administration as to whether the request had been received, whether that request had been forwarded to the board through the Facilities and Transportation Committee and whether the consent had been issued.

13. Westman Auditorium – Councilor Blight offered an update to the auditorium upgrades. The project will be a 3 Phase project. Funds for the first phase have been raised, fundraising continues for the 2nd and 3rd phase.

14. Museum – Consideration of appropriate space continues. Various significant historical sites were discussed.

15. YMCA – Breaking ground this fall. Councilors advised as to the appropriateness of the proposed facility to meet community needs.

16. Skateboard Park – Breaking ground this spring.

Submitted by

Ramona Coey
Trustee, BSD