

Present:

Chair – Councillor Martin
Councillor Starchuk
L. Larsen School Trustee Liaison
S. Altokhais
Dr. P. Aylward
A. David
S. El-Nashar
M. Fallon
Dr. B. Gurm
C. Iweh
B. King
J. Kovach
M. Malik
K. Polubinski
M. Pyne
S. Sabharwal
K. Thiara
J. Thind

Absent:

T. Ghuman
G. Grewal
T. Oleman
D. Preston

D. Ganan, Youth Rep
S. Al-Samarrai, Youth Rep

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture
D. Gill-Badesha, Manager, Middle Childhood,
Kensington Prairie Community Centre
M. Mohammed, Diversity Coordinator, RCMP
R. Affleck, Community Services Coordinator
Caroline Tallarico
C. Bejtovic, Legislative Services

Youth Representatives**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. The minutes of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting held January 20, 2015, to be adopted.

It was

Moved by M. Pyne
Seconded by M. Malik

That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory
Committee meeting of January 20, 2015, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. **D. Gill-Badesha, Middle Childhood Manager, Newton Recreation Centre, City of Surrey**

In attendance before the Committee to provide a presentation on the MYzone Program.

The following comments were made:

- The MYzone Program is built on multiple partnerships and funding sources, and supports children in Surrey in their middle years (6-12 years in age).
- The national recreation framework in Canada prioritizes after school care and leadership development in children. MYzone after school drop-in program addresses the research on critical hours – the time of day of 3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Research shows if children are left unsupervised, there is greater risk of injury, drug and alcohol use, negative peer involvement, crime, teenage pregnancy and other issues.
- After school time is an important time to engage children in a high quality, semi-structured program to meet the development needs, build leadership capacity, and opportunities to connect with friends. Middle Childhood (ages 6-12) is a time of life when mental health issues start to arise that are sometimes not recognized. It is important to pay attention to what is a behavioural issue compared to what is becoming a developmental mental health issue.
- MYzone partnerships include:
 - Equitas, International Centre for Human Rights Education
 - Simon Fraser University, Friends of Simon Program
 - First Steps, Sports & Me Program
 - Snapshot! Project through Telus
 - Sources, Community Food Connections
 - Children's Foundation of BC
 - Options Community Services
 - Children's Partnership of Surrey-White Rock
- The Guildford Family Nights Program is a partnership made possible through a grant from the Vancouver Foundation. Through this grant the City of Surrey has partnered with the Children's Foundation, Options Community Services and the Children's Partnership of Surrey-White Rock to provide family education at no cost to the family, in a supportive way to meet the needs of the entire family.
- Parent education is part of the Guildford Family Nights with an experienced educator to facilitate discussions. The RCMP have given talks about bullying; the fire department about preparedness; and a parenting skills piece was brought in about self-regulation and to how to build self-esteem.
- Outreach workers try to reach isolated families to bring them to the events so they can meet other families and learn about their community. In its second year, attendance in the programs doubled. Programs have reached capacity at Guildford Centre and the aim is to start the program in Newton through efficiencies in grant management and leveraging partner resources.

Discussion

Outreach has begun targeting other languages including Chinese and Arabic in Guildford. Every town centre in Surrey has the MYzone Program.

A once-a-month informal drop-in family model is being tested in Guildford. Drop-in programs work for families who cannot make a long term commitment. Parents want a chance to meet with other parents as peers and hear about their experiences. It provides a neutral environment that is safe, bringing in partners to provide parent education and outreach, and doesn't require a large budget.

Staff receive High Five training, Canada's quality standard for children's recreation and sport, and Play it Fair! Training through Equitas, where they learn activities and play that supports inclusion and diversity principles. If there are identified behavioural issues, staff can identify and refer out to the appropriate resource.

MYzone is open to any local resident child at a cost of \$40 per year, which runs from the end of September to early June. It is an intergenerational drop-in program that provides the opportunity for 12 year olds to mentor 9 year olds.

Staff noted that the City has made a serious commitment to develop the program, leveraged current internal resources, and has been testing out through pilot projects to ensure the best quality program is delivered. The goal is to have one program per town centre facility, and we must find ways and means to expand the program further and start pushing it out on a neighbourhood by neighbourhood basis.

2. Gloria Raphael, District Principal, Aboriginal Education

In attendance before the Committee to provide a brief overview of Aboriginal Services within the Surrey School District.

The following comments were made:

- The term Aboriginal is one the government uses which encompasses Metis, Inuit and First Nations. Of the more than 70,000 students enrolled in the Surrey School District, 3,200 are Aboriginal learners. There are 125 school sites.
- Aboriginal staff in the Surrey School District include:
 - child and youth care workers;
 - education assistants;
 - district cultural facilitators;
 - teacher advocates (at some of the secondary schools);
 - one transitions facilitator; and
 - office staff.
- There is a high demand for district culture facilitators as they provide services specific to aboriginal cultures. They focus on two main first

nations - Semiahmoo and Katzie - who have signed aboriginal education enhancement agreements.

- The Enhancement Agreement vision is to have every aboriginal graduate with purpose, dignity and options; to increase knowledge and understanding of aboriginal history, traditions, and cultures; and to increase achievements for aboriginal learners.
- There is shared responsibility for Aboriginal education by all District staff. District and School Initiatives include:
 - House of Elders
 - Traditional Teaching, Welcome Posts
 - Winter Family Gathering
 - Regional Leadership Conference
 - Aboriginal Resource Collection (sharing the wealth)
 - Cultural Connections - Community Schools Partnership (after school programming)
 - Windspeaker Leadership Program (grades 7-12 after school, weekends and breaks, camp leadership training and independent studies program for credits towards graduation)
 - Bannock and Books (gathering to connect and engage with each other)
 - Little Eaglets Program - (working with Head Start at Guildford, connecting parents with their children from school into homes)
- District Enquiry Team focuses on the strengths of Grade 7 and 8 aboriginal learners and follows them through school.

Discussion

Aboriginal Education Services are funded through the Ministry of Education; targeted funding is for enhanced services. Every child has a right to education in the classroom; it's about how to enhance what's already there.

Children self-identify when they register in school; there is no requirement to specify to which aboriginal group they belong.

Although there is a need for integration with non-aboriginal families, District Culture Facilitators are paid through targeted funding that specifies services provided to aboriginal children and their families. There is a pow wow coming up which will offer that opportunity, but no large events are planned at this time.

In terms of the graduation rate, there is a large gap; however, there has been an increase of 13% this year. The sudden increase may have to do with the simple fact that we are focusing. Shared responsibility means it is not only aboriginal education services that are responsible for aboriginal learners across the district. It is the responsibility of everyone involved to focus on what is the history of aboriginal people. The Enhancement Agreement provides background information about the history. There is a pilot project for Grade 4 and Grade 10 on residential schools and the impact, moving away from the negative and focusing on the strengths.

The delegation noted that there are three helping teachers in the District who work directly with teachers on infusing the aboriginal content into the curriculum.

The School Trustee commented that great strides have been made on focusing on the strengths rather than the deficits; trying to get aboriginal people to be proud of their heritage. And even though 3,200 have self-identified, there are many parents who will not check the box for self-identification.

The term "cultural awareness" has been replaced by language that speaks of increasing knowledge around traditions and histories. The comment was made that personal identity issues are the same for all minority groups. The delegation responded that, specifically, there is not another country Aboriginal Peoples can go back to. It is about personal positive identity of aboriginal people; their community is the only place they have to identify with.

The Committee asked how the program is integrated with the other students in the school so as not to increase separation. The delegation responded that it is not a separate program; it is integrated; all programs are open. In terms of targeted funding, we have to provide an additional service for aboriginal learners. In terms of the program, activities, initiatives, we are all inclusive.

June 21 is Aboriginal Day which the City of Surrey celebrates. There will be a Pow Wow at Fusion Festival in July.

3. **Alan Hunt and David Beattie, The Hello Project Canada**

In attendance before the Committee to provide a brief overview on the Hello Project Canada.

The following comments were made:

- Metro Vancouver is getting a reputation of being unfriendly. When asked about what they dislike most about living in Vancouver, people responded that loneliness and isolation were the main issues. The Hello Project has taken the lead role in attempting to change this perception.
- The New Way Community Society in the downtown east side of Vancouver brought the Hello Project to their Board and adopted it as one of their initiatives.
- Surrey is a particularly diverse City and is a prime location for the first pilot project, beginning with the Fusion Festival. The Pilot Project will concentrate on the core of downtown Surrey, City Hall, the Library, SFU, City Centre Shopping Centre and Skytrain station and bus loop.
- The project is unprecedented and it is unclear what it will look like, possibly volunteers handing out lapel pins.

- The delegation has met with the Manager of Community Grants at the Vancouver Foundation. The Project may be funded by the Vancouver Foundation which will match up to 50% up to \$75,000 over three years.
- The delegation would like to see a member of this Committee participate in forming the working committee.

Discussion

There was some discussion around what would be printed on the lapel button. The vision is unclear at this point but the decision should be consultative; possibly have it in many languages.

The Steering Committee will help shape the project. At the Fusion Festival, flyers will be distributed along with the button, to inform people that the button is just an invitation to chat.

It was suggested that instead of flyers, make it a mystery social media contact. Coffee cups, hats, t-shirts; items that carry the logo. The more mysterious, the more engaging - keep it simple. Use images rather than languages; images are more universal.

Look at the underlying issues of why people don't communicate with each other. Change the culture of "don't talk to strangers". It's not about race relations; it's about getting people to talk no matter who they are.

4. P. Bellefontaine, Transportation Planning Manager and M. Fitzgerald, Transportation Planner

In attendance before the Committee to provide an update on the Transportation Plebiscite.

The following comments were made:

- A million people are expected to move to the Metro Vancouver region, bringing 650,000 more vehicles. Surrey will see 350,000 people moving to the area.
- The Mayors' Plan allows for a 25% increase in bus service; LRT, extension of Skytrain with 50% more capacity; 11 new B-Lines buses.
- \$7.5 billion in total with 45% (\$3.5 billion) coming to Surrey.
- LRT will see 19 stations and a 27 km network connecting communities. The LRT is less expensive than Skytrain, will provide more service, and is more suitable for connecting single family neighbourhoods. There will also be new community shuttles.
- The Fraser Highway corridor will come first with an extension of the existing B-Line to White Rock, then the Scott Road/72nd Avenue B-line.

- There are \$750,000 million in the Plan for the Major Road Network (MRN). These are roads that cities own and control for which Translink provides funding.
- New Pattullo Bridge will be four lanes upon opening with the ability to expand to six lanes.
- Funding is dedicated to Mayors' Transit and Transportation Plan. It is the first in Canada with tax dedicated to certain projects. There will be an independent audit process and public reporting, as well as an accountability committee chaired by Jim Pattison.

Discussion

Discussion was held regarding direct routes to hospitals and cancer clinics. The delegation stated that this is being considered and advised that Fraser Health has a shuttle for hospital transfers that can be used in the interim.

In terms of start time of transportation from Surrey to other areas, part of the Plan considers 80% more night bus service taking into consideration shift workers. Currently several regular routes end by 1:00 a.m.; times and routes will be expanded.

Fraser Highway has been designed so that two westbound lanes will become LRT lanes, and two new westbound lanes will be built.

Maintenance costs were discussed. Funding includes money to operate and maintain into the future at a higher level of maintenance. In a cost comparison, Skytrain is less expensive to operate in terms of service as it does not have a driver; the operating cost for LRT is higher because there is a driver. LRT is at street level.

With the inclusion of a B-Line to both Surrey and Langley campuses of KPU, and with SFU City Centre expanding, there will be options to go to any University in the Region.

Concern was expressed about the inability of the City of New Westminster to manage the traffic flow from a new Pattullo Bridge. There is no infrastructure in place to take that traffic.

Discussion was held around the potential to use existing railroad tracks already in Surrey. This has been extensively studied over the last five to seven years. It is an active railway, the right-of-way of which is owned by BC Hydro. Southern Railway has the operating rights and it would cost about \$700 million to run a route on the existing line, which dates from 1904. It's not as easy as it sounds, largely because we don't own it.

The delegation advised that there is no Plan B if the yes vote is not successful. If the Plan does not pass, the \$7.5 billion is off the table and the process moving forward will be more expensive and slower.

In response to the question of how long the 0.5% tax would be in effect, the delegation noted that the Plan is built over ten years but will not be paid for over ten years. The tax will raise \$250,000 million per year; in ten years will raise \$2.5 billion. There will be ongoing operating costs that will need to be funded. The project is debt financed over 25 years. The region is growing and there needs to be a funding mechanism to deal with that growth.

Ten percent of consumer spending in the Lower Mainland is tourism. People from outside of the region are helping to pay for the network.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee meeting to be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2015**, in City Hall, **2E Community Room B**.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Fallon

Seconded by J. Kovach

That the Diversity Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor M. Martin
Diversity Advisory Committee