

Present:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
Councillor Martin, Vice-Chair
B. Gurm
C. Iweh
K. Polubinski
M. Fallon
M. Malik
S. El-Nashar
S. Ewing
T. Ghuman
L. Hwang – Youth Representative

Absent:

G. Tymoschuk
M. Pyne
M. Shrestha
P. Aylward
T. Oleman

Staff Present:

B. Collis, Diversity Coordinator
D. Gill-Badesha, Healthy Communities Manager
C. Tallarico, Communications Manager
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. January 16, 2018**

It was

Moved by B. Gurm

Seconded by T. Ghuman

That the minutes of the Diversity Advisory

Committee meeting held on January 16, 2018, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Caroline Lai, English Language Learner and Welcome Centre Manager, and Meredith Verma, Welcome Centre Assistant Manager, Surrey School District #36**

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation, and a short video regarding the Surrey School District English Language Learner Welcome Centre (the "Centre") and the transition of English Language Learner (ELL) students to a new school system. The following information was highlighted:

- The Centre was established in March 2008. Students can be referred to the Centre by schools, district departments, community and government or church agencies.
- The Centre works with over 9,000 students annually and operates both out of the Centre (King George Blvd. and 75 Ave.) and schools throughout Surrey.
- The top three immigration categories are: skilled workers; family class; and refugees.

- The top five primary home languages of assessed students of the 2016/2017 school year were: Punjabi; Mandarin; Arabic; Tagalog; and Korean.
- This year the number of refugee claimants has doubled; the Centre's teachers assessed between 4,500 to 6,500 newcomers. August and September were the busiest months.
- Assessments are essential to support student needs, provide lead time to prepare incoming students, and coordinate school-specific support in an effective and timely manner.
- The information collected is sent to the schools when necessary so they can plan accordingly to welcome the students and their families. The focus is on helping students integrate.
- Assessments are sent to the receiving school designates. Multicultural Workers (MCW) are available to greet new students and families at the school and provide a school-specific orientation and support to ELL students.
- Centre staff work closely with school staff by assisting in various programs such as: Strong Start; i-Pals; and Welcome to K Programs.
- The Bridge Program provides services beyond regular support or educational programs specifically for at-risk/vulnerable immigrant youth between ages 15 and 19.
- The Bridge 2 Success provides support for at-risk learners between ages 17 and 19 new to Canada. The program is a collaborative with the Adult Education and Surrey College to provide adult graduation credits and a supportive transition to adult education, Surrey College or other options.
- The Bridge 2 Success program offers courses in English, Math, Marketing, and Business Computers.
- The Foundation Programs provide adults with basic English skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Settlement Workers and MCW also provide Foundation Program students with information workshops.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Students aged 14 to 16 who are at a greater risk of dropping out and not graduating due to a lack of academic knowledge are defined as "at-risk".
- About 3% of students are government assisted refugees and require additional assistance as they are often coming without an educational background, or an interrupted educational background.
- Typically students remain in the Bridge program for about six to eight weeks, depending on their particular needs.

- Often the focus is developing the English language ability first in order to transfer students to school. Every school is different and every ELL team functions differently around student driven needs.
- Considerations regarding class placement for students with interrupted schooling or no educational background are made in order to ensure that they are supported and offered opportunities to succeed.
- The Business Computers segment of the adult graduated program includes Microsoft programs such as Excel, PowerPoint, and some general accounting courses.
- Trade skills workshops and training are also provided through the Centre.
- The International Program includes students grades 4 to 12. Support is also offered to adults; however, programs through other facilities, such as the Welcome Centre at the University of British Columbia (UBC), are often utilized.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation and noted that he plans to visit the Centre.

L. Hwang left the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

**2. Indigenous Activities and Opportunities: Culture Division, City of Surrey
Lynn Saffery, Museum Manager**

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding initiatives to give Indigenous communities in Surrey a voice and opportunity to share their stories. The following information was highlighted:

- The City's Culture Division is comprised of a number of areas, including a very strong Cultural Grants program.
- A number of projects for community art have been initiated by the City, many of which allowed for opportunities for youth members of Indigenous communities.
- The Museum of Surrey has collaborated with the Métis School Program, hosted a celebration event, and has worked with a Métis artist on a textile program to provide a sash for the Museum's collection.
- The Museum of Surrey would also be working on the development of an Indigenous Hall, with the theme "We are all Connected".
- In collaboration with the Kwantlen community, an education component would be established for the Indigenous Hall including stories of the people of Surrey, and relevant information about their community.
- Future projects for the City include the addition of an Indigenous representative on the Community Advisory Board for Heritage Services, and utilizing a Young Canada Works Student to assist in rewriting Coast

Salish Education programs to give voice and make the Indigenous communities visible.

K. Polubinski left the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

- Through the Public Art program, staff has worked to develop Indigenous infrastructure in Surrey, featuring 11 public artworks by Indigenous artists.
- The Surrey Art Gallery regularly exhibits Indigenous community artwork. Indigenous Contemporary Art Workshops and resources are also held for students Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Both the Fusion Festival and Canada Day celebrations showcase Indigenous communities; future plans will see the City expand these activities and celebrations.
- In addition to the traditional welcome at the Surrey International Children's Festival, main stage performances often include Indigenous performers.
- Traditionally, Indigenous communities facilitate conversations regarding caring for the land and sustainability, which the City intends to focus on as a future project.
- The Culture Division has placed a focus on the youth of Indigenous communities and has worked to empower them as much as possible.
- Acknowledging that we are on unceded territories, and including this in the language used in the future is important.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Discussions with the Urban Indigenous Committee, Kwantlen and Semiahmoo have been initiated in an effort to obtain an Indigenous representative on the Community Advisory Board for Heritage Services. In addition, the City will continue to utilize the Surrey School District's Resource Centre.
- It was clarified that public art refers to artwork that goes through a consultation and review process for consideration and implementation throughout Surrey, while community art involves working with the community to promote artistic expression.
- The Fusion Festival will feature foods from local Indigenous communities.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- Enquires were made regarding the current location of the canoe previously displayed outside of the Surrey Arts Centre.

Staff informed that they would follow up with Liane Davison, Visual and Community Arts Manager, regarding this matter.

- Tom Oleman, Committee member, Darlene Willier, retired KPU faculty member, and/or Brandon Gabriel, Kwantlen First Nation artist, could assist with the City's search for you representation.
- A tie-in to the reconciliation process was encouraged. It was noted that the City of Vancouver incorporates flags in Council Chamber to acknowledge their position on unceded territories, and suggested that Surrey could do the same.
- A private showing of the movie *Indian Horse* would be held for the Musqueam Community. The City could look into hosting or co-hosting an additional showing which could be targeted at youth in the community.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. 2018 Strategic Work Plan

Staff summarized the 2018 Strategic Work Plan.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Youth participation on City Committees continues to be a challenge, due to meeting times and a lack of awareness in the community. Currently, one appointed youth representative participates on the Diversity Advisory Committee, and staff will continue to outreach for another youth appointment.
- Displaying Indigenous flags at Council meetings and events could be considered; however, additional discussion and research will be required.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by T. Ghuman

That the 2018 Strategic Work Plan be

approved.

Carried

2. Link to Other Council Committees

Staff initiated a discussion regarding the potential link to the Diversity Advisory Committee with other Council Committees.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- Previously crossover was content-based through delegations and presentations provided to the Committee.
- Committee crossover representation can be challenging, as diversity should be reflected in all aspects of the City. Bridging diversity can be a complex issue.
- Representation on other Committees could be used as an educational tool for information sharing.

Further review and discussion will be scheduled for the next meeting.

3. Parks, Recreation and Culture Diversity Policy Update

Staff reported that they are currently in the process of hiring a policy student from the University of British Columbia (UBC) to conduct a policy review and to review national and international practices from a municipal perspective. It was noted that the Committee would have an opportunity to review and comment on the policy at a later date.

4. Youth Representation on the Diversity Advisory Committee

A brief discussion ensued with respect to the challenges of obtaining youth representation for the Committee.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEM

**1. Surrey Organizing Against Racism and Hate (OARH) Forum
March 23, 2018 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Surrey City Hall**

This item was circulated for information.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

No verbal updates were provided.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Ewing

Seconded by M. Fallon

That the Diversity Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Diversity Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
Diversity Advisory Committee