



# Corporate NO: C008

# Report COUNCIL DATE: September 4, 2001

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| <b>COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE</b> |   |              |                        |
| <b>TO:</b>                  | <b>Mayor &amp; Council</b>  | <b>DATE:</b> | <b>August 27, 2001</b> |
| <b>FROM:</b>                | <b>General Manager, Planning &amp; Development</b>                              | <b>FILE:</b> | <b>0547-001</b>        |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>             | <b>Surrey School Board Resolution: Eligible School Sites Proposal 2002-2006</b> |              |                        |

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council accept the Surrey School Board resolution regarding proposed Eligible School Sites 2002–2006, as documented in an attachment to a letter dated July 9, 2001, from School District 36 (Surrey) (attached as Appendix "A").

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to forward, for Council's consideration, the Surrey School Board resolution related to Eligible School Sites 2002–2006.

The Eligible School Sites Proposal identifies school site needs and costs, based on the projected increase in school children and the number of new schools required, over the next 10 year period (2002-2011) within the School District. The purpose of the School Board's letter is to confirm that the City of Surrey is in agreement with the current Eligible School Sites Proposal.

Pursuant to the requirements of the *Education Statutes Amendment Act*, the School District is requesting that Council, either pass a resolution to accept the School District resolution regarding Eligible School Sites 2002-2006, or respond in writing to the School Board indicating that it does not accept the Eligible School Sites Proposal 2002-2006 and reasons for the objection.

The Eligible School Sites Proposal 2002-2006 does not propose any changes to the recently established School Sites Acquisition Charge ("SSAC"), which came into effect on July 21, 2001. However, during each year's School District capital planning process, the School District will review the SSAC to ensure the charge is consistent with the projected need for school sites.

## BACKGROUND

Each year, the Surrey School District is required to submit a five year capital plan, including an Eligible School Sites Proposal, to the Provincial Ministry of Education. The Ministry reviews and approves a capital plan as the basis for the funding of new schools over the following five year period.

In preparing their capital plan, the Surrey School District works with City of Surrey Planning staff to project population growth and to calculate the number of new schools that will be required over the next 10 years. The School District then estimates the consequent land, development and other capital costs.

On June 28, 2001, the Board of School Trustees of the Surrey School District approved a resolution to incorporate the Eligible School Sites Proposal 2002-2006 into the District's Five Year Facility Capital Budget, 2002-2006, for submission to the Ministry of Education.

In a letter dated July 9, 2001, which was received by Council on July 23, 2001, the School District notified the City of the School Board resolution and requested that Council consider the resolution. Pursuant to Section 937.4(6) of the *Education Statutes Amendment Act*, a local government that has received such a request must consider the school board's resolution at a regular council meeting and, within 60 days of receiving the request:

*937.4(6)(a) pass a resolution accepting the school board's resolution of proposed eligible school site requirements for the school district, or*

*(b) respond in writing to the school board indicating that it does not accept the school board's proposed school site requirements for the school district and indicating*

*(i) each proposed eligible school site requirement to which it objects, and*

*(ii) the reasons for the objection.*

If a local government fails to respond within 60 days of receiving such a request, it is deemed to have agreed to the proposed eligible school site requirements for the school district set out in the school board's resolution.

## DISCUSSION

### **School Board Resolution - Eligible School Sites Proposal**

The School Board resolution, related to the Eligible School Sites Proposal, establishes the current estimates of growth in the number of school-aged children, new school needs and school site acquisition costs for the next 10 years. This process is done annually and is consistent with the School District's established practice and methods of planning for new schools. The Eligible School Sites Proposal contains the following calculation of school site needs over the 2002-2011 period:

- Estimates residential development of 39,125 housing units over the next 10 years (done in collaboration with the City of Surrey Planning and Development Department).

- Estimates an increase of 15,773 school-aged children (School District #36).
- Estimates that 16 new school sites will be required over the next 10 years.
- Estimates that the 16 new school sites will require 48 hectares of land. These sites are expected to be purchased in five years and, at current serviced land costs, the land will cost approximately \$39,443,000.

Using City of Surrey residential growth projections, the School District estimates the increase in the number of school aged children and then allocates this growth according to the remaining capacity in existing schools and the need for new schools and sites. With assistance from the City Engineering Department (Realty Services Division), the School District then estimates the total serviced land costs for the proposed new sites.

In that the School District's method for determining student allocations and the need for new schools/sites is generally consistent with City of Surrey residential growth projections and land cost estimates, the Eligible School Sites Proposal, as presented by the School District, is considered reasonable.

### **No Effect on Current School Site Acquisition Charges for 2001**

The 2002-2006 capital plan process will not change the SSAC that came into effect on July 21, 2001. Each year, during the process of preparing the School District capital plan, the School District will review the proposed school site requirements in relation to projected SSAC revenues. If there is a significant difference between estimated site costs and estimated SSAC revenues, the School District will enter into a process with the City to make the necessary adjustments to the SSAC.

## **CONCLUSION**

In that the 2002-2006 Eligible School Sites Proposal is consistent with established Surrey School District methods of planning for school enrolment and facilities and the projected student population is consistent with the City's residential growth projections, it is recommended that City Council accept the Surrey School Board resolution related to the Eligible School Sites Proposal 2002-2006 as documented in the attachment to the letter from the Surrey School District 36 (Surrey) dated July 9, 2001 (copy attached as Appendix "A").

Murray D. Dinwoodie  
General Manager,  
Planning & Development Department

TH/saw

Attachment

Appendix "A"

