

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Martin
Mayor Hepner
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Woods

Absent:**Staff Present:**

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Human Resources
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Nathan Hildebrand, Surrey School Coalition**

File: 0250-20; 0550-20-10

Nathan Hildebrand, Surrey School Coalition, was in attendance before Council to introduce the Surrey School Coalition (Coalition) and to provide a presentation regarding the need for additional funding from the Provincial Government for new schools in high growth areas of Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The Coalition represents the Surrey District Parents Advisory Committee (SDPAC), Surrey Board of Trade, Urban Development Institute (UDI) and the Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association (GVHBA). Many of the members were in attendance in the audience.
- The Coalition is a unique and diverse group with a common goal, to secure funding for schools in high growth areas in Surrey.
- The Coalition has met and presented to a majority of Surrey MLAs. They have also met with City staff as well as the Surrey School Board to gather information to support the Coalition.
- Lisa Garner, SDPAC, noted they recognize the overcrowding crisis in the high growth neighbourhoods, and were in attendance united to advocate to the BC Provincial Government for funding of Surrey schools to alleviate the overcrowding crisis.
- There are 71,000 students and 275 portables in Surrey; currently 33% over capacity.
- It was projected that 1,000 new students will enrol in Surrey schools each year, when in fact, 1,500 new students entered the Surrey schools in 2016.

- Taking these numbers into account, four years from now there will be 4,000 – 6,000 new students enrolled. This estimate leaves approximately 1,300 – 2,900 students without a seat in Surrey schools.
- One of the many examples in Surrey is two high schools currently 500 and 600 students over capacity and portables are not even available for these 1,100 students. Both schools have already been on the two-bell system for years.
- The trickle-down effect of the chronic underfunding by the BC Provincial Government to Surrey schools is that they now have had to cut support workers, educational assistants, administration, custodians, and the list goes on. These support workers are vital to the public system schools; when these positions are cut, the students suffer.
- As a city, Surrey has done exactly as the Premier has asked, to approve development of affordable housing for young families. Also the City has supplied the Provincial Government with its five year plan, which includes requesting funds to build schools, additions and expansions to Surrey schools. It is now up to the BC Provincial Government to approve the funding of new schools, additions and expansions, to accommodate the exponential growth in Surrey.
- Ann McMullan, UDI, and representing GVHDA and the development industry, stated that new home construction is a major economic force in Surrey; the tax revenues generated from this industry assist in directing funding for new schools.
- The delegation noted that any development ban would be counterproductive for affordability, creating jobs, and creating jobs for the young people that are going through the Surrey school system, also an important part of Surrey's overall economy.
- The funding requested through the Surrey School Board's 2016 and 2017 Capital Plan does not address the requirement to continue to build schools in Surrey as development happens in order to keep up with the need for Surrey's projected growth.
- The Provincial Government's recent announcement of additional space does not address the needs for those schools currently in crisis as a result of their overcapacity numbers. The Coalition is asking for an additional \$175 million of funding over and above what is already promised which is to alleviate some of the most immediate need. It a request for new money, a new announcement, not a re-announcement.
- The long term need is to ensure that a planning and funding model recognizes the areas of high growth and anticipates the need for new schools before overcrowding reaches crisis point again.
- At this point the Coalition hasn't met with the Minister of Education, which is part of their next phase. They wanted to get the message out, meet with the Surrey MLAs, City staff, and the Surrey School Board first.

- Council noted that advocating as a group makes the message even more powerful.
- Council suggested that the same presentation be made to the elected Surrey School Board officials and the Provincial Government.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT


It was

now adjourn.

Moved by Mayor Hepner
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:46 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Martin, Chairperson