



SPECIAL CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, May 12, 2016

A Special meeting of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFAC) was held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 5:40 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Yasmin Ali, Chair
Cheryl Andre
Janice Douglas
Fiona Fan
Joy Fan
Lena Hozaima*
Aaron Leung, Vice-Chair
Iris Liu
Christy Lo
Harrison Mair
Tasha Nijjar
Mab Oloman
Anthony Santelices
Anna Zhang
Grace Zhu

ABSENT: Nico Cullen-McKnight (Leave of Absence)
Samantha Truong
Wenyng Wu (Leave of Absence)
Eric Wong (Leave of Absence)
Frank Yan (Leave of Absence)
Joy Zhou (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Patti Bacchus, School Board Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Leslie Tuerlings, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Janice Douglas
SECONDED by Tasha Nijjar

THAT Nico Cullen-McKnight, Wenyng Wu, Eric Wong, Frank Yan and Joy Zhou be granted Leaves of Absence for the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Lena Hozaima absent for the vote)

1. Introduction and Welcome to New Committee Members

The Chair welcomed the new Committee members and roundtable introductions commenced.

2. 2016 Work Plan

The 2016 Work Plan will be discussed during the Committee's working session.

3. Education Update

Patti Bacchus provided an update on the Vancouver School Board's 2016/17 Operating Budget and noted that the board voted against the approval of the budget and that discussions with the Ministry of Education continue.

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Cheryl Andre

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes that it has a role in supporting the leadership of youth in the democratic process;
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes that youth need to have a voice against the cuts that ultimately impact them;
3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes that youth in the public education system are disenfranchised in the democratic process because the majority are under the voting age of 18;
4. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee will be requesting meetings with Members of the Legislative Assembly to present a petition in support of the Provincial Government's bipartisan Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services 2015 recommendations regarding funding for schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee distribute a petition in support of the 2015 recommendations from the Provincial Government's bipartisan Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, to all Vancouver secondary schools to collect student signatures.
- B. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee invite students to attend meetings with local MLAs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Lena Hozaima absent for the vote)

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, with the support of the Education Sub-Committee, hold four Education Town Hall meetings throughout Vancouver to discuss the challenges of the public education system prior to the end of the Committee's term on February 28, 2017.

FURTHER THAT that Vancouver Trustees, Vancouver MLAs, and if appointed by the Provincial Government, the Special Administrator, be invited to attend these Town Hall meetings in order to hold a collaborative dialogue towards a solution that properly funds the public education system not only in Vancouver, but throughout British Columbia.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by: Aaron Leung
SECONDED by: Christy Lo

WHEREAS

1. All children in Vancouver, no matter race, gender, sexuality, and socio-economic status deserve equitable access to a well-funded public education system that supports their educational goals and needs;
2. All children who attend public school in Vancouver are currently working in a system that is underfunded by the Provincial government in spaces that are not seismically sound putting thousands of students at risk;
3. The public education system across British Columbia is in crisis due to the chronic underfunding by the Provincial Government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee fully support the Vancouver Board of Education in its difficult decision to reject the 2016 budget that eliminates services and supports for vulnerable students.
- B. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee call on the Provincial Government to allow the existing Board of Education to work towards a collaborative solution with the Provincial Government.

FURTHER THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee write to the Premier and Education Minister to request that the current Board of Education fulfill its full term in accordance with the mandate that Vancouver citizens gave its elected representatives.

- C. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee request that City Council support the Vancouver Board of Education in its advocacy for the proper funding of the public education system.

- D. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee support the 2016 Vancouver School Board Restoration Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Yasmin Ali
SECONDED by Aaron Leung

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 6:08 pm.

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