



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, November 10, 2016

A meeting of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFAC) was held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 5:38 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT:

- Aaron Leung, Vice-Chair
- Cheryl Andre
- Nico Cullen-McKnight
- Janice Douglas
- Fiona Fan*
- Joy Fan
- Lena Hozaima
- Iris Liu
- Harrison Mair
- Tasha Nijjar*
- Mab Oloman
- Anthony Santelices
- Eric Wong
- Wenying Wu
- Frank Yan
- Anna Zhang
- Joy Zhou
- Grace Zhu

ABSENT:

- Yasmin Ali, Chair
- Christy Lo (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

- Commissioner Catherine Evans, Vancouver Park Board
- Erica Mark, Staff Liaison, Vancouver Park Board

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Leslie Tuerlings, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Frank Yan
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT Christy Lo be granted a Leave of Absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tasha Nijjar and Fiona Fan absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Cheryl Andre
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT the minutes of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee meeting held on July 7, 2016, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tasha Nijjar and Fiona Fan absent for the vote)

1. Approval of 2017 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Joy Fan

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve the 2017 meeting dates that occur prior to March 1, 2017, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tasha Nijjar and Fiona Fan absent for the vote)

2. Youth Engagement Working Group Update

Mab Oloman, Frank Yan, Cheryl Andre and Anthony Santelices provided an overview of the matters discussed at the Youth Engagement Working Group meetings and led the Committee in a "Dotmocracy" exercise.

3. Response to the Current State of the Public Education System

In response to the current state of the public education system, the Committee discussed a number of matters as follows.

a) Calling for the Re-Establishment of a Democratically Elected Board of Education for Vancouver Citizens

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Anthony Santelices

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee is disappointed by the Minister of Education's decision to dismiss the Vancouver Board of Education that was democratically elected by Vancouver citizens;
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes the lack of stable, predictable, and adequate funding by the Provincial Government for all schools across the Province;
3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee acknowledges that the Province has kept Vancouver students in unsafe, seismically unsound facilities over the past decade;
4. On May 12, 2016, the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee stated its position on the 2016 Operating Budget in support of its rejection and requested that the Vancouver Board of Education fulfill its elected term.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee send an urgent request to the Provincial Government asking them to call an election that re-establishes a democratically elected Board of Education before the initiation of the 2016/17 Vancouver School Board Budget Consultations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recommend that Vancouver City Council request that the Province establish an election as soon as possible in order for citizens to establish a democratically elected Board of Education.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Supporting the Amendment to Type A and B Committees

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Frank Yan

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee supports a democratically elected Board of Education;
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee believes that in accordance with their four-year mandate, elected Trustees should be able to

continue to serve their community in other capacities related to roles they have been

appointed to while serving on the Board of Education if allowed by that organization.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee fully support the Motion entitled "Support for a Democratically Elected Board of Education" being considered by Vancouver City Council at the November 15, 2016, Regular Council meeting.
- B. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee ask that Council attempt to appoint Trustees who apply through the process back to the Committees they served on prior to dismissal for continuity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c) Request a Meeting with the Minister of Education

MOVED by Aaron Leung

SECONDED by Lena Hozaima

WHEREAS

- 1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes its role in advocacy on behalf of children, youth and families in Vancouver;
- 2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee acknowledges that it has a role in facilitating conversations between the public and government for issues that relate to the Committee's mandate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee write a letter requesting a meeting with the Minister of Education in partnership with student advocacy groups to discuss the issues facing the Vancouver school system;

AND FURTHER THAT the above-noted letter be posted to the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee's Facebook page.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d) Requesting a Liaison from the Vancouver Board of Education

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Tasha Nijjar

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes that the Vancouver Board of Education has been dismissed by the Minister of Education;
2. Due to the actions taken by the Minister of Education, the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee has been informed by the City Clerk's Office that it no longer has a liaison from the Vancouver Board of Education;
3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes its role in advising Council, Park Board and School Board, and to receive adequate and timely information, requires a Liaison from the Vancouver Board of Education in order to provide sound advice;
4. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes that all other Civic Agencies no longer have a liaison appointed due to the dismissal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee send a letter to Dianne Turner, Appointed Trustee for the Vancouver Board of Education, to discuss options regarding the appointment of a staff liaison from the Vancouver School Board to attend the Committee's Regular meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e) Opposing the Disposal of Public Lands by the Vancouver School Board

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Anna Zhang

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes the continued budget shortfalls at the Vancouver School Board over the past decade due to government underfunding;
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee strongly supports preserving public lands owned by the Vancouver School Board for future generations to fulfill its educational mandate for all present and future children;
3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee acknowledges that in June, the Minister of Education allowed the Vancouver School Board to use a

portion of the money received from the sale of Kingsgate Mall to fund the Operating Budget if the Vancouver School Board were to sell the land;

4. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in favour of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation that recognizes the ability of the union to negotiate class size and composition as a part of their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee oppose the disposal of any School Board owned property to balance the Operating Budget including, but not limited to school property and Kingsgate Mall;

FURTHER THAT the funds from the disposal of public property should not be used to fund the Operating Budget of the Vancouver School Board for it is the Province's duty to adequately fund public education and is not permitted through the *School Act*;

AND FURTHER THAT any consideration of the sale of public land be done by a Board of Education elected by Vancouver citizens and not by an appointed trustee from the Provincial Government.

- B. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recommend that Vancouver City Council support this position to preserve public lands for the residents of Vancouver and future neighbourhoods, including the planned growth along the Cambie Corridor.
- C. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee acknowledge that the ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada may result in the need for more classroom space, therefore the process of property disposal should not be considered until the impact of this ruling is assessed and the completion of the negotiation process between the Province and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation on class size and composition is complete.
- D. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee send a letter to Dianne Turner, Official Trustee of the Vancouver School Board, the Minister of Education and the Premier of BC, copied to Vancouver City Council, and all Vancouver MLAs, outlining our concerns;

AND FURTHER THAT the above-noted letter be posted to the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee's Facebook page.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f) Supporting the Indefinite Suspension of the School Closure Process by the Vancouver Board of Education

MOVED by Aaron Leung

SECONDED by Iris Liu

WHEREAS

1. The elected Vancouver Board of Education, before their dismissal, halted the school closure process;
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee acknowledges that Dianne Turner, Official Trustee, has no intention of re-opening the process as reported by news outlets;
3. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recognizes that the school closure process disproportionately affected students on the east side of Vancouver;
4. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee acknowledges that the Richmond School District halted its closure process on October 17, 2016.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee support the Board of Education's decision to halt the closure process;

AND FURTHER THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee recommend that any consideration of closing schools be done by a Board of Education elected by Vancouver citizens.

- B. THAT this position be included in a letter to Vancouver City Council, Vancouver MLAs, Dianne Turner, the Minister of Education, and the Premier of BC.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g) Invitation to Participate on the Education Subcommittee

MOVED by Aaron Leung

SECONDED by Joy Zhou

THAT Hazel Pangilinan, student at Gladstone Secondary and coordinator for the "Save Gladstone" campaign, be invited to participate in meetings of the Education Subcommittee until the end of the Committee's term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h) Response to Peter Milburn's Forensic Audit of the Vancouver School Board

MOVED by Aaron Leung
SECONDED by Fiona Fan

WHEREAS

1. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee has reviewed Peter Milburn's Forensic Audit of the Vancouver School Board;
2. The Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee is concerned about multiple recommendations included in the Audit Report.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee reject the following recommendations from the Auditor's Report and include these points in letters to Vancouver City Council, the Board of Education, Vancouver MLAs, the Minister of Education, and the Premier of BC:

R2: "The VSB update and clarify its policies relating to governance to ensure that Trustees are bound to conduct themselves in accordance with their role as stewards rather than advocates."

R9: "Consistent with best practices at other School Districts, the VSB designate committee meetings as in camera in an effort to depoliticize discussions and allow Trustees to focus on providing effective oversight."

R10: "The VSB delegate stakeholder consultation to VSB management with the results presented to Trustees at relevant Committee meetings."

R19: "The VSB immediately update the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) to reduce facility costs and align the space requirements per pupil with other comparable school districts."

R25 "The VSB conduct a strategic review of the real estate assets by a qualified professional regarding (i) the existing market value of the surplus lands (by way of sale or lease); and (ii) the closed and pending closed school annexes, proposed school closure associated with the LRFP, and non-school assets. This is consistent with EY recommendation BR15."

R26: "The VSB retain real estate professionals to assess the market rental potential and highest and best use of each of the school facilities proposed for closure in the LRFP, and adopt those recommendations that result in the best financial outcome. This is consistent with EY recommendation BR16."

R27: "The VSB work with the Province to develop viable options for achieving early value (revenue) from the transfer of a partial interest in the Kingsgate Mall to the Province."

AND FURTHER THAT without additional information, the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee take a neutral position on the remaining recommendations in the Auditor's Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. VPD Access without Fear

Tasha Nijjar provided an update on the consultation process and status of the Vancouver Police Department's draft Access without Fear policy.

5. Impact of City Policies on Race and Ethnic Relations

Eric Wong noted the importance of being aware of the unintentional impacts that City policy may have on specific ethnic groups. This will be discussed further at the Committee's Working Session.

6. 2016 City Budget Discussion

Janet Douglas noted that she attended the 2016 City Budget Discussion and expressed the importance of invitations being sent with advance notice so that the Committee is able to discuss the topic prior to sending a representative.

7. New Business

a) Fresh Voices Awards

Tasha Nijjar reminded the Committee about the Fresh Voices Awards. The link to the nomination form will be circulated.

b) Education Subcommittee Town Hall Meeting

Aaron Leung noted that the Education Subcommittee will hold a town hall meeting in January. Committee members interested in helping with this event should let Aaron know.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Lena Hozaima
SECONDED by Wenying Wu

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2017
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:44 pm.

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