



PUBLIC MINUTES – SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE WITH THE GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' BOARD

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 1:05 p.m.
Committee Room E, Ground Floor, City Hall**

- PRESENT:** His Worship Mayor C. Clark
Councillor C. Block
Councillor R. Donauer
Councillor B. Dubois
Councillor S. Gersher
Councillor H. Gough
Councillor Z. Jeffries
- ABSENT:** Councillor T. Davies
Councillor D. Hill
Councillor A. Iwanchuk
Councillor M. Loewen
- ALSO PRESENT:** City of Saskatoon
City Manager M. Totland
City Solicitor P. Warwick
Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office M. Beveridge
Policy and Communications Advisor J. Sherbino
City Clerk J. Sproule
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
Chair D. Boyko
Vice-Chair W. Stus
Trustee D. Berscheid
Trustee R. Boechler
Trustee J. Carriere
Trustee T. Fortosky
Trustee T. Jelinski
Trustee A. Risling
Trustee S. Zakreski-Werbicki
Director of Education G. Chatlain
Superintendent of Education J. McAuliffe
Superintendent of Education G. Martell
Superintendent of Human Resources A. Boutin
Superintendent of Administrative Services J. Lloyd

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was co-chaired by Mayor Clark and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board Chair, Diane Boyko. The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions were made.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board

4.1.1 Theodore Court Ruling

Trustee Fortosky reviewed the history of the matter and noted the court decision is under appeal by the Saskatchewan School Boards and the Provincial Government. A fund-raising campaign is underway to try to defray the costs of the appeal. Parents are legitimately concerned with the ruling; however it will take some time for the appeal to be determined. In the meantime, there is no change to accepting students to Catholic Schools. It was noted that for over 100 years, Catholic Schools have been welcoming non-Catholic students into their schools. Currently, this amounts to approximately 40,000 of the 170,000 who attend.

4.1.2 Budget 2017-2018

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board Chair advised that their budget reduction is \$1.2 million. They have 550 new students that will be attending in the fall along with the opening six new

schools. The shortfall will be \$8.4 million amounting to a total deficit of \$9.7 million (6%). Student funding has dropped and the School Board will be attempting to mitigate the deficit through major changes in bus transportation. They will be working closely with the Saskatoon Public School Board on this initiative. The outreach will increase to 1.2 km from the current 0.8 km. They will also be looking at more centralized supports and spreading existing resources to cover more demands. Fewer positions are being added and there will be some school-based program changes. The implications for the City include reduction in bus services and impact on roadways along with more pressure to ensure snow clearing in school zones is done well because more students will be walking and using public transportation. The School Board will be working towards a balanced budget by the end of June.

It was noted that Public schools will have the same distances for buses and there could be extra traffic congestion if parents start driving. The safety of the students is a priority. The change to bus services will start this fall. The schools have been providing resources to inform parents of the changes along with general information available on each of the school websites. City Manager Totland noted that for the first week of school in the fall, the City intends to have staff at each of the new schools to monitor flow of traffic and pedestrians and make any changes, if necessary.

Mayor Clark reviewed the 2017 budget cuts and the impact on the City. Currently, the City is reporting a potential 6.97% increase in property tax for next year. All options are being reviewed and negotiations are continuing with the Province regarding property tax payments by the Crowns.

4.1.3 New Schools

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board Vice-Chair thanked the City and Council for significant playgrounds at the new schools. He noted all four structures have been ordered and are expected to be in place for the start of the school term. Existing playgrounds also require refurbishing and renewal and the School Board is open to working together with the City to examine the situation and make plans for repair and/or replacement (financial support). It was noted many areas of the City raise money for playground improvements; however, not all areas have the same capacity to raise funds. Members of Council noted that following

the last election campaign, playgrounds were identified as an area to work on and this has been identified as a priority and challenge. The list of playgrounds goes beyond school sites. Often citizens aren't able to distinguish between a City playground or a school playground. City Council has committed to pursue this quality of life issue.

Discussion followed with respect to the opening of six new schools this year – four in Saskatoon, one in Warman and one in Martensville. The projects are progressing and the schools will be opened on time. Lease agreements for shared space with the City are still underway and will be completed shortly. The main school opening celebration will be held on September 8th in Stonebridge. Formal invitations would be forthcoming to members of Council.

The Board discussed some additional needs such as facility improvement to the St. Frances Cree Bilingual School.

Documentation in this regard was circulated.

The Board expressed its appreciation to the City for being a good neighbour through its assistance in keeping projects on time (permits and infrastructure); working together to develop appropriate footprints for schools; and flexibility with respect to accessing facilities (parking).

The Board noted plans for a North East High School will need to begin soon and accommodations and assurances from the City are important to have in place. It was noted that both St. Joe's High School and Holy Cross High School are at about 1000 students and both were designed for 850. The City noted that sites were identified in the Holmwood Sector plan and accommodation has been made in that plan for both public and separate.

The School Board noted that the provision of buses by the City for taking students to various events has been well received and it will continue. Good reviews have been received from staff and parents are very appreciative.

4.2 City of Saskatoon

4.2.1 Enumeration/Voters List/Voter Registry (File No. CK. 265-1)

A resolution package from City Council's meeting held on April 25, 2016 was provided.

Mayor Clark reviewed the submitted report and the City Clerk answered questions. The Board was advised that the City was only seeking any feedback at this time.

Discussion followed regarding costs to the School Board and the usefulness of a list when the candidates are elected at-large. The School Board suggested there would have to be a benefit for participating. A cost-benefit analysis would be required. It was further noted that the governance of school boards may change in the future and there are lots of unknowns at this point in time.

Discussion followed regarding the determination at election time on the eligibility to vote for the Catholic School Board. The determination regularly causes challenges for election workers and staff, particularly where the voter is not eligible regardless of the fact their children attend a Catholic School. It was noted that an enumeration or voters list would not eliminate the challenge. A determination still needs to be made.

4.3 Other Joint Matters

4.3.1 Use of Water Bottles

Background related to the discussion at Council Committee on the use of water bottles was provided. It was noted that a report in this regard will be going forward to City Council at its next meeting.

School Board representatives advised that they have had good success in their schools. Every school would have at least one water station so refillable water bottles are encouraged for students. The School Board has done considerable work in this regard and would be happy to share their experience and challenges with the City.

4.3.2 Traffic Safety Committee

Councillor Gersher reported that the Traffic Safety Committee is hoping to start an awareness campaign in the fall around safety in school zones. It will be focused on the concept of “do you see me now”.

4.3.3 Photo Radar

It was noted that the pilot program for photo radar is nearing the end. Aside from controlling speed in school zones, there are issues with cars idling in the winter hampering visibility and illegal U-turns. The monitoring of illegal activity in school zones other than speed was encouraged.

Also, idle-free zones have recently been discussed at the City and further dialogue will occur with school boards in this regard.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Trustees and members of Council were thanked for participating in this joint meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

His Worship, Mayor C. Clark, Co-Chair

J. Sproule, City Clerk