

Re: LETTER FROM THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH THAT APPEARED ON
THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 15, 1976 MEETING OF COUNCIL (ITEM 4c)
HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN CHILDREN

Appearing on last week's agenda was a letter from Dr. G.H. Bonham, Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Health, regarding a proposal to study the status of identification, diagnostic and remedial services for children with hearing impairments in Vancouver and the surrounding area. Following is a report from the Medical Health Officer on this matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT no further action be taken until a more final draft has been worked on by the Board; and
2. THAT the Board be so advised.

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November 18, 1976

Mr. M.J. Shelley
Municipal Manager

Dear Mr. Shelley:

RE: The Study on Hearing Impairment in Children

Comments

1. The report reviews hearing screening in the Metropolitan area. Much of the discussion concerns the need for screening of large numbers of children from birth through school. This would require considerable numbers of staff and additional equipment including the possibility of mobile vans. While it is essential to detect children with hearing problems early, mass screening programmes are not necessarily the most efficient way to do it, nor may they be the best deployment of staff as it is just as important to provide for follow up of screening and treatment if necessary.
2. Specifically for Burnaby the questions which still need to be answered are:
 - a) How much service could Burnaby expect?
 - b) What other support services might be required such as clinical staff, equipment, office space, etc which might have to be funded locally.
 - c) How might the next step of treatment be accomplished. Does this mean more speech pathologists, nurses, special education teachers, others?
3. The position of the School Board - as health services, especially those concerning hearing in children, are financed through the School Board - any recommendation should be made in conjunction with them.
4. This report is still under discussion by the Metropolitan Board and further work is intended. It is circulated at this time for information of council.

Recommendation

- I That the report be received and circulated and any comment sent to the Metropolitan Board.
- II That no further action need be taken until a more final draft has been worked on by the Board in the near future.

Yours truly,

S.L. Hemming
S.L. Hemming, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SLH: kmf