

Re: COURSE ON BURNABY MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
(ITEM 3, REPORT NO. 75, NOVEMBER 24, 1975)
(ITEM 15, REPORT NO. 12, FEBRUARY 23, 1976)

ITEM	5
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	50
COUNCIL MEETING	Aug. 3/76

The purpose of this report is to acquaint Council with the results of the course on Municipal government which was offered to the general public by the Municipality and the School District this year.

It will be recalled that development of the course was started when approval in principle was received from Council in November, 1975. An outline on the content and scheduling of the course was subsequently presented to and approved by Council in February, 1976. Members of staff and officials from the School District then proceeded to finalize arrangements in anticipation of having the course ready for presentation during the spring term.

The course was publicized in the Burnaby Information Newsletter and an advertisement which was placed in local newspapers by the school district.

More than sixty students attended the first class on April 8. Attendance remained at that level for about three sessions (prior to the introduction of daylight saving time and the advent of somewhat better weather). Although moderate decreases were experienced on a gradual basis after that time, final sessions in June continued to be regularly attended by between 35 to 40 students. This level of overall attendance was very gratifying, particularly in view of the fact that organizers of the course expected only about twenty persons to enroll.

A questionnaire was given to students at the last session on June 16th. Fifteen questionnaires were returned. An analysis of the responses shows that many of the constructive comments made by students include valuable suggestions on how the course can be improved. Comments on the questionnaire also gave a clear indication that the vast majority of students were satisfied with both the content of the course and the caliber of instruction received.

It will be possible for Council to get some appreciation for students' reactions to the course from the following summary of responses that were made on the questionnaire:

Question

In what way was the course to value to you?

- (a) "It opened up many vistas."
- (b) "Greatly increased my knowledge of the community and resources available."
- (c) "A realization of what problems exists in our community and how they are handled, and also what services are available."
- (d) "I feel more at home in my municipality. I know the personalities who administer Burnaby and feel much closer to their problems."
- (e) "It gave me a better understanding of the working and inter-relationships of the different segments or units of our Municipal government."

Question

Were you satisfied with the instructors' knowledge in areas covered?

- (a) "Yes - I wish I had further access to their knowledge."
- (b) "Yes, in the majority of cases."

- (c) "They were admirably knowledgeable - simply outstanding.
They give me great confidence in Burnaby's administration."
- (d) "Excellent."
- (e) "Always."
- (f) "Definitely."

Note: There were no negative replies to this question.

Rating

An immediate overview of reactions can be obtained from the responses that were noted by some of the students on the following rating form:

Please rate this course for:	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
(a) Course content	1	2 3 4	5
(b) Presentation of the course	1	2 3 4	5
(c) Overall satisfaction with the course	1	2 3 4	5
(d) How do you rate the instructors	1	2 3 4	5

The preceding factors received the following ratings (as indicated by the figures in parentheses which represent the number of students replying):

	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
	1	2 3 4	5
(a) Course content		(1)(4)	(10)
(b) Presentation		(1) (9)	(4)
(c) Overall satisfaction		(5)	(8)
(d) Instructors		(10)	(3)

The students at the final session strongly recommended that the course be repeated for the benefit of others who may wish to learn about their local government.

Mr. G.H. Wilkins, Principal of the Douglas Street School and moderator for the course, in a letter to the Municipal Manager advised that in his opinion, interest in the course remained high to the end, and that overall, "the course was perceived as highly informative and worthwhile." Mr. Wilkins' recommendation that all social studies teachers and department heads from the district's secondary schools be encouraged to attend any future course on Municipal Government is excellent. The Manager fully concurs and intends to promote such involvement when the course is offered again.

In conclusion, the course is considered to have been very successful. Students appear to have gained a practical knowledge of how their local government is organized and operates, and there is no doubt that members of staff who participated found it to be a highly rewarding experience. It is recommended that the course be offered again during the winter quarter commencing in January, 1977.

A special mention of appreciation should be extended to all members of the School District who participated in organizing the course, and to those who gave instruction on school related matters to the class. To the extent that the course was successful is directly attributable to the efforts of the instructors and Mr. Dave Carter, Co-Ordinator of Community Education, and Mr. G.H. Wilkins, the Moderator. It was a privilege for staff to have had an opportunity to work with these professionals in the field of education.

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Special acknowledgement should also be given to Mr. T. Whelan of the Department of Municipal Affairs, Mr. F. Bunnell of the G.V.R.D. and Mr. C.S.J. McKelvey of the U.B.C.M. who appeared as guest lecturers (Mr. McKelvey also included information on the C.F.M.M. in his remarks before the class). Taking time from their busy schedules to prepare and present talks in their respective areas of expertise is very much appreciated. It is obvious, upon reflection, that the course content would have been lacking in essential detail had they not given so freely of their time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT approval be given to have the course on Municipal Government offered again during the winter quarter, 1977, with the understanding that a further report will be submitted to Council when preparations have been completed; and
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Burnaby School Board and Dr. Elmer Froese, Superintendent of Schools.

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