

1994 MARCH 15

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

PURPOSE: TO INFORM COUNCIL OF CHANGE IN FUNDING SOURCE FOR SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.

REPORT

Background:

The Ministry of Health recently contacted the Medical Health Officer to explore whether there was a preference for funding for school health services to come directly from the Ministry of Health, as opposed to the current arrangement, in which funding is provided from the Ministry of Education to the Burnaby School Board and subsequently to the City.

This appears to be a direct response to a request by the Vancouver's Medical Health Officer, through Vancouver City Council, to the Ministries of Health, and Education to arrange for funding for school health services to come directly from the Ministry of Health, as part of the its overall grant to the Vancouver Health Department. The rationale for this request was the recent decline in the amount of funding coming to the Vancouver School Board from the Ministry of Education for school health services. The parties involved in Vancouver agreed to the arrangement, and approached the Ministries of Health and Education. The Ministry of Health chose to investigate the request as it would pertain to the other Municipal Health Departments.

The Burnaby School Board has since been notified by the Ministry of Education that the source of funding for School Health Services will change in the upcoming year. The Ministry of Health has verbally confirmed this as well. Although we anticipate receiving formal notification from the Ministry of Health, to date no notification has been received. At this time the funding for Rehabilitation Services and the "Jericho/Provincial School for the Deaf" program will continue to come from the Burnaby School Board.

Funding Information:

The amount of the funds to be transferred is not yet finalized, but will likely be the same as that approved in 1993/94, which was \$812,092. (Note: Approved budgets were to include a provision for BCNU contract settlements, and therefore we operated on a base budget of \$791,750 for the year ended December 31, 1993. The School Board was to reimburse the City the remaining \$48,210, upon contract settlement for the 1993/94 period, as well as the allowance for contract settlement calculated for the 1992/93 period, which was estimated at \$21,950.)

While not yet documented in correspondence, the Ministry of Health is allegedly intending to cover the entire retroactive for the school health nurses. The School Board was going to cover up to the approved budget amount only. The Health Department School Preventive Nursing Program should still be entitled to invoice the Burnaby School Board for the settlement reserves, and apply these funds to the program costs.

Possible Advantages:

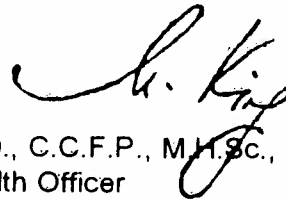
The transfer of the Health Department's source of funding for school health services from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Health offers certain advantages. The need to prepare budgets for the School Board on a different fiscal year (July to June) is eliminated, as is the need to invoice, and reconcile payments. The split of funds for nursing staff between school and cost-shared programs has been complicated, and would no longer be required.

We should gain some flexibility in terms of how the dollars can be spent, and are less likely to see funds being eroded. This is quite possible if School funds were cut back drastically, and the School Board had to make a choice between education programs and health programs.

Update:

On March 8th, the Medical Health Officer, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Coordinator of Children's Services met with Burnaby School District staff to discuss our budget submissions for 1994/95. There was agreement to have the School Administration staff forward our budget package to the Ministry of Education, to ensure there is recognition of what should be transferred to Health, and that Health Administration staff would forward the same package to the Ministry of Health, indicating that the level of funding required to meet the existing level of service for School Nursing is closer to \$920,000, rather than the \$812,000 received in 1993/94.

We will be kept informed by the School District staff as to any information they receive from the Ministry of Education relating to these programs.



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Medical Health Officer

cc: Director Administrative &
Community Services
Director Finance