

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING
AND DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN

2001 JANUARY 11

OUR FILE: 17.556

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the current status and proposed next steps for development of a strategic plan for Burnaby's Community School system.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee and Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission for information.

R E P O R T

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 1997 May 26, Council endorsed a recommendation that the City join the Burnaby School Board in the designation and funding of Maywood Community School. In the report accompanying the recommendation, it was noted that a more strategic approach would be desirable for future community school designations. Specifically, the report stated that, for future community school development, a system should be in place for anticipating emerging needs and making plans in accordance with adopted planning goals and fiscal and administrative realities. It observed that, simply adding new community schools on a periodic or reactive basis would not suffice in the future - especially in an era of constrained resources.

Given the foregoing, work was initiated on development of a strategic plan for Burnaby's community school system. The effort is being coordinated by the District Community School Advisory & Coordinating Committee (DCSACC), with assistance from School District and City staff (the Community School Management Team).

Council received an information report on the strategic plan development at its meeting of 1998 January 26. This report provides a further update. It consists of three parts: 1) a description of the current community school partnership, 2) a summary of key activities to date in preparation of the strategic plan, and 3) an overview of proposed next steps regarding the plan preparation.

2.0 COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

In 1977, the City and School Board adopted a joint resolution for the funding and operation of community schools in Burnaby. Now, roughly 24 years later, the City and School District, in conjunction with the Ministry for Children & Families (MCF), share in the funding of seven community schools: Gilmore, Lochdale, Stoney Creek, Stride, Second Street, Edmonds, and Maywood. The 2001 Provisional Operating Budget allocation for the City's share of the community school program is \$312,780.

The District Community School Advisory and Coordinating Committee serves as an advisory body to the School District and City on the community school program. One of the DCSACC's responsibilities is to develop the yearly operating budget for Burnaby's community school operations. Another is to assess community school designation requests and make recommendations to the School Board and City regarding designation status, funding, and operational matters. The DCSACC consists of a chairperson from the community, representatives from Burnaby's seven community schools, a School Trustee, a Parks Commissioner, and a City Councillor. Staff from the Ministry for Children & Families and School District, along with members of the City's Planning and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Departments, also attend DCSACC meetings.

At the operational level, the Community School Management Team serves as the "working arm" of the DCSACC, assuming responsibility for the management and administrative aspects of the community school operations. The Management Team consists of two representatives from the School District (Director of Community Education Services and Community Education Coordinator) and two from the City (Manager of Community Services for Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services and Senior Social Planner). The Team's current priority is to assist the DCSACC with preparation of the Community School Strategic Plan.

3.0 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

The key activities to date in development of the strategic plan to date are as follows:

- a) *Preparation of an information document on the community school model.* Through the use of diagrams and simple text, this document seeks to clarify the goals and components of the community school model. Endorsed by the DCSACC in 1998, the document was developed through a consultation process involving the Community School Management team, community school coordinators and principals, and community council representatives. It is serving as a useful foundation for development of the strategic plan.
- b) *Preparation of the "Moving Forward" discussion paper.* Building upon the community school model document, this discussion paper provides information on the historic development and current status of the community school system, and outlines

the key planning challenges facing the system for the future. It was endorsed by the DCSACC in 2000 May as a basis for eliciting comments to help with preparation of the strategic plan.

- c) *Arranging a consultation session regarding future directions for Burnaby's community schools.* Using the "Moving Forward" discussion paper as a basis, the DCSAAC scheduled a workshop in 2000 September with about 40 key stakeholders in the community school system (e.g., school trustees, MCF staff, members of community school councils, community school principals and coordinators, and other School District staff). The City was represented by Councillors Begin and Johnston, Commissioners Bevilacqua and Hayes, and staff from the Planning and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Departments. Breaking into small working groups, participants in the session focused on several planning questions regarding the future of community schools. The input will help the DCSACC and Community School Management Team in developing the draft Community School Strategic Plan.

The document on the community school model, the "Moving Forward" discussion paper, and a summary of comments from the aforementioned consultation session are provided to Council under separate cover.

4.0 PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

A diagram of the key steps in preparation of the strategic plan, from 2000 September to the plan's adoption, is presented in Appendix 1, *attached*. The first two steps depicted in the diagram have been completed: the consultation session in 2000 September and discussion of outcomes with the DCSACC the following month. The next steps in the process involve the following:

- *2001 January* - Completion of the draft strategic plan, for review by the DCSACC
- *2001 February* - Distribution of the draft document to, and elicitation of feedback from, key stakeholders
- *2001 March and April* - Final revisions and adjustments to Community School Strategic Plan
- *2001 May and June* - Seeking endorsement of proposed strategic plan from City Council, Burnaby School Board, and the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission.

Councillor Begin, as Council's liaison on the DCSACC, will be involved as the strategic plan is developed. Councillor Johnston, in his capacity as Community Issues & Social Planning Committee (CISPC) chair and former Council liaison on the DCSACC, has also expressed

an interest in reviewing draft materials. If the rest of Council has an interest in providing input as the plan is being refined, staff would be pleased to organize a planning workshop or other event, if so requested.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report has provided an update on the current status and proposed next steps for development of a strategic plan for Burnaby's Community School system. Staff will continue to keep Council and, in turn the CISPC and Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission apprised as work on the plan proceeds. Also, if members of Council wish to have a more direct involvement in preparation of the plan, staff would be pleased to organize a planning workshop or other event, if so requested.

The Community school system has played an important role in strengthening communities in Burnaby for nearly 25 years. The system is highly regarded throughout BC and Canada - not only for the quality of the schools themselves, but also for the unique partnership arrangement in their funding and management. The proposed Community School Strategic Plan should help the City and School District in planning a future course for Burnaby's community school system, thereby ensuring that the system remains effective, responsive, and efficient in the years ahead.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee and Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission for information.



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PLANNING AND BUILDING



Kate Friars, Director
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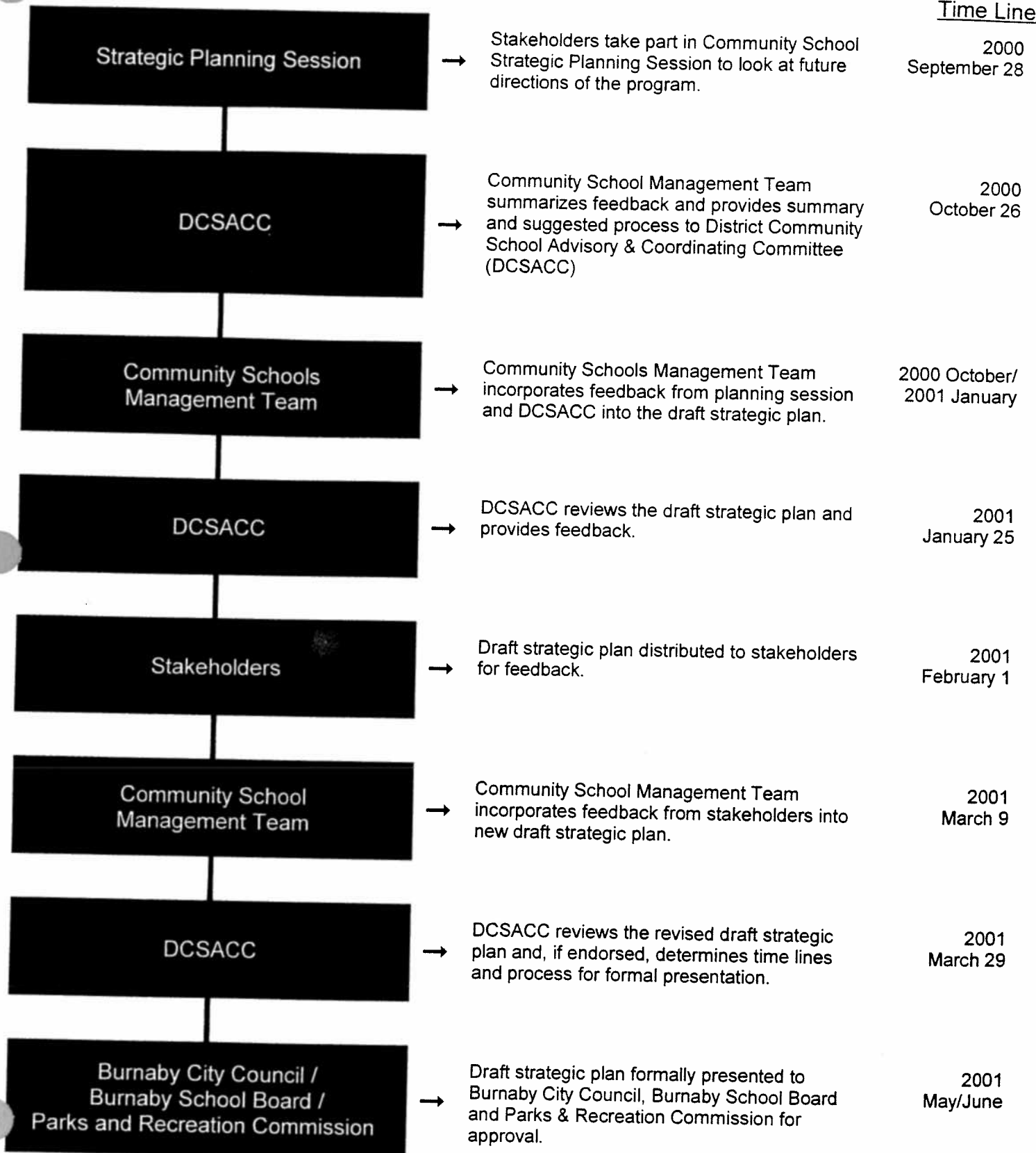
Attachment

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BURNABY COMMUNITY SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Appendix 1

Time Line



Endorsed by the District Community School Advisory & Coordinating Committee on 2000 October 26.

