

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE  
COMMISSION

**DATE:** 2021 June 10

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**FILE:** 9100-20

**SUBJECT: 2021/2022 COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT**

**PURPOSE:** To request approval and authorization of an agreement with the Burnaby School District #41 for the support and operation of eight Community Schools.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** approval be given for the expenditure of \$528,229.00 as the City of Burnaby's share of the operating funds for the 2021/2022 Community School Program.
2. **THAT** the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend Council authorize the execution of an agreement with Burnaby School District #41 for the support and operation of eight Community Schools (Byrne Creek, Edmonds, Gilmore, Lochdale, Maywood, Second Street, Stoney Creek and Stride Avenue).
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Burnaby Board of Education for their information.

## **REPORT**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The City of Burnaby and School District #41 have been working together since 1974 to provide services to the citizens of Burnaby. The eight Burnaby Community Schools fill a valuable role in our neighbourhoods by welcoming community members into the facilities throughout the day for programs, events, resources, and as places to gather and build social connections. They provide an additional layer of recreation and community services to the citizens of Burnaby in a warm, inviting and encouraging environment. In response to the CoVid19 pandemic, the Community Schools adapted their programming to respond to new and emerging community needs and will continue to do so as the next school year unfolds. The following are a few examples of this work:

### **Early Learning**

- In person and/or outdoor programs at all StrongStart locations; Virtual Circle Times featuring early learning community partners as guest speakers
- Learning Together on My Way to Kindergarten providing opportunities to welcome new kindergarten students and their families in multiple formats
- Childcare programs continued to expand providing new spaces in schools and on school grounds

### **Out of School Time Programs**

- Out of school time programs were offered at 11 sites with a variety of community organizations including Burnaby MoreSports, Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Canada Scores, Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Vancouver, Awesome Escape Rooms, Rhythm Resource, Sprouting Chefs, Cameray Family Services
- Summer programs will be offered at 7 community schools during July and August 2021, serving over 700 students

### **Youth Connections**

- Girls' and Boy's groups offered online for vulnerable students
- Resources and information shared with parents to enrich home learning
- Mentorship programs continued through Pen Pal and virtual activities
- The Burnaby Youth COVID Response Team continued - a group of youth from grades 9-12 from secondary schools in Burnaby provided relevant information to students across Burnaby during the CoVid19 pandemic

### **Family & Community Support**

- Food security; Non-perishable food procurement and home delivery was provided to families in need and/or in isolation as a result of COVID-19; Over \$50,000 in gift cards were delivered to families in need; Backpack Buddies, outdoor breakfast programs, snack distribution, emergency lunches continued with the support of Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Burnaby Helping Families in Need, churches, Tzi Chi Foundation, Burnaby Children's Fund, BASES and the local fire department
- Coordinators continued to work with all school principals to help connect families to services and supports (mental wellness, health supports, CoVid19 resources); Frequent wellness visits and calls occurred to check in on vulnerable families
- Weekly newsletters, Tweets, regular website updates and CommuniTEA Times supported communication and engagement of families
- Intentional Acts of Kindness – Sunshine Notes Project (notes exchanged students and seniors); Wall of Kindness at Lougheed Mall and community chalk messages of love

The work of the Community Schools is guided by the District Community School Advisory and Coordinating Committee (DCSACC). Committee members are parent representatives from each community school, one School Trustee, one Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission member, one Council member and one member at large, with the support of City and School District staff. As has been the practice for over 40 years, DCSACC requests the School District and the City of Burnaby provide the funds for the continued operation of the eight Community Schools for the 2021/2022 school year.

To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission  
From: Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Re: 2021/2022 Community School Grant

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A letter from the Burnaby School District #41 (**Attachment #1**) outlines the Community Schools' operating budget and funding sources for the upcoming year. This budget is an \$11,357.00 increase (2%) to overall base contribution levels from the City to address increases of employee wages and benefits for 2021/2022. The School District will also be increasing its contribution by 2%. This funding is distributed equally to each school to help cover their core requirements. All Community Schools supplement their community education programs and neighbourhood support activities through a variety of fund raising activities, grants, donations and sponsorships.

## **2.0 POLICY SECTION**

The Community School Grant aligns with the Corporate Strategic Plan by:

### **A Connected Community**

- Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
- Work collaboratively with educational institutions

### **An Inclusive Community**

- Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
- Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging

### **A Healthy Community**

- Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that approval be given for the expenditure of \$528,229.00 as the city's share of the funds to operate Burnaby's Community schools. The funds are included in the City's Annual Budget.



Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES  
RJ:km:tc  
Attachment

cc: Acting City Manager  
City Solicitor  
Director of Corporate Services  
Director of Finance