

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT FUNDING 2023/2024 AND MASTER
JOINT USE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled “Community School Grant Funding 2023/2024 and Master Joint Use Agreement Renewal” from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated June 13, 2023, be received for information.

REPORT

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, at its meeting held on June 13, 2023, received and adopted the *attached* report providing information on Community School Grant funding and the intention to update the Master Joint Use Agreement.

On behalf of the Parks,
Recreation and Culture
Commission,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Commissioner R. Kent
Vice Chair

TO: PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION (PRCC)

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT FUNDING 2023/2024 AND
MASTER JOINT USE AGREEMENT RENEWAL**

PURPOSE: To provide Commission and Council with information on The Community School Grant and the intention to update the Master Joint Use Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Community School Grant Funding 2023/24 and Master Joint Use Agreement Renewal” dated June 13, 2023, from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture be received by Commission and Council for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The Community School Grant aligns with the City of Burnaby’s Social Sustainability Strategy and Burnaby Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

- The creation of a sense of belonging and neighborhoods;
- The creation of vibrant communities; and
- Building a city that is sustainable, inclusive and livable.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby and School District #41 have maintained a collaborative relationship since 1974 to provide services and facilities for the benefit of Burnaby's citizens. On October 25, 1976, the School Board (then named so) approved a "Joint Resolution" outlining guiding principles for optimizing school facilities for community use (*Attachment 1*). Subsequently, in December 1976, the PRC Commission and Council also endorsed this Joint Resolution (*Attachment 2*).

The District Community School Advisory and Coordinating Committee (DCSACC) oversees the delivery of services in Community Schools. The committee comprises parent representatives from each community school, one School Trustee, one Commission member, one Council member, and one member at large, with the support of City and School District staff. While there is no formal funding agreement between the City and DCSACC, it has been a long-standing practice for the City to partially fund the operating costs of Community Schools for over 40 years.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Overview of Community Schools

Burnaby is home to eight Community Schools that play a vital role in providing community members with access to school facilities throughout the day for programs, events, resources, and social connections. These schools serve as familiar community hubs, offering an additional layer of recreation, culture, and community services to residents.

Although no formal agreement is in place, the School District invoices the City annually for the costs associated with providing services at the Community Schools. The City's annual funding share represents 40.98% of the anticipated operating costs for the upcoming school fiscal year. For the 2023/2024 school year, the School District has requested \$573,417 from the City, reflecting an increase compared to the previous year due to wage and benefits adjustments. Detailed information regarding this funding amount can be found in *Attachment 3*.

3.2 Programs and Services Offered

Community Schools offer a diverse range of programs and services, including:

1. Early Learning:
 - In-person and/or outdoor programs at all StrongStart locations.
 - Virtual Circle Times featuring guest speakers from early learning community partners.
 - "Learning Together on My Way to Kindergarten" initiative, providing multiple formats to welcome new kindergarten students and their families.
 - Expansion of childcare programs, creating new spaces in schools and on school grounds.

2. Out of School Time Programs:
 - Out of school time programs conducted at 11 sites in collaboration with various community organizations, such as Burnaby More Sports, Burnaby Neighborhood House, Canada Scores, Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Vancouver, Awesome Escape Rooms, Rhythm Resource, Sprouting Chefs, and Cameray Family Services.
 - Community School model offering summer programs at 11 schools during July and August 2023, benefiting over 1,000 students.

3. Family & Community Support:

- Food security initiatives, including non-perishable food procurement to support families in need or isolation, Backpack Buddies, outdoor breakfast programs, snack distribution, and emergency lunches facilitated by Burnaby Neighborhood House, Burnaby Helping Families in Need, churches, Tzi Chi Foundation, Burnaby Children's Fund, BASES, and the local fire department.
- Coordinators collaborating with school principals to connect families with mental wellness and health support services, conducting regular wellness calls to vulnerable families.
- Communication and engagement activities such as weekly newsletters, Tweets, website updates, and Community Tea Times to foster connections with families.
- "Intentional Acts of Kindness" projects, including the Sunshine Notes Project (exchange of notes between students and seniors), the Wall of Kindness at Lougheed Mall, and community chalk messages of love.

3.3 Updating the Master Joint Use Agreement

Recognizing the importance of updating and formalizing the historical and verbal agreements between the City and the School District, PRC staff are committed to working collaboratively with the School District to update the Master Joint Use Agreement. This update is prioritized as part of the PRC Department's 2024 workplan.

The aim of updating the Master Joint Use Agreement is to provide a clear and comprehensive framework that governs the ongoing partnership between the City and the School District. By formalizing this agreement, both entities can ensure effective coordination, transparent decision-making processes, and equitable resource allocation for the benefit of the community.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PRC staff will engage with the School District to review and revise the existing agreement, considering current needs, emerging priorities, and best practices. This update will contribute to strengthening the long-standing collaboration between the City and the School District, ensuring the continued provision of high-quality services and facilities to the citizens of Burnaby.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Sufficient funding for the Community School Grant has been included in the City's 2023 Operating Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – School Board Approval of Joint Resolution for Community School Programs
- Attachment 2 – City of Burnaby Approval of Joint Resolution for Community School Programs
- Attachment 3 - 2023-2024 Budget for Community Schools

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Jill Porter, Manager Recreation Services and reviewed by Eric Bientjes, Director Recreation and Ratan Grewal, Director Budgets and Reporting.