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Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society (CNH)
Response to
Vancouver Board of Education Child Care Rental Increase Proposal

June 23, 2010

I am here tonight to speak to the Proposed Child Care Costing Model Report that is before you. I am a parent and also the President of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

CNH currently rents space for licensed school age child care programs in four Vancouver elementary schools:

- Graham Bruce School near Boundary Road and Joyce Street. This location also serves children attending Collingwood Annex.
- Carleton School on Kingsway at Joyce Street. This location also serves children attending St. Mary's School and Collingwood Annex.
- Grenfell School on Rupert at Wellington Street. This location also serves children attending Renfrew School.
- Norquay School on Slocan Street near Kingsway.

Each of the four schools is licensed to serve 30 children before and after school, on professional development days and during seasonal breaks. Fees are currently set at \$335 per month for before and after school care. We operate summer programs at only two of our four locations.

Concerns

The Carleton location in particular serves a socio-economic demographic area where families are challenged financially in paying the current level of fees. Any increase hits these families hard and creates more young latchkey kids as parents withdraw when they are unable to pay the fee.

While most families may be able to absorb a fee increase of \$10 per month, we are absolutely certain that almost no families will be able to absorb a fee increase of over \$100 a month. (See attached spread sheet). Parents will have no choice but to withdraw their children and programs will close. The result will be more primary children as latchkey kids and more children in unsafe situations. These invaluable programs add to the learning and education of children in your schools. We urge the Trustees not to raise the rental fees. However, if they choose to do this we ask that they select the lower rate of cost recovery in order to sustain these valuable programs in the schools.

In the proposal we are to be charged an annual fee of \$2,500 for access to space outside of the licensed area, but in all four schools the space offered for our use is inadequate and frequently gets smaller and more constrained as time passes. For example, kitchens are shared with hot lunch programs, closets are shared with school paper supplies, office space is in a pantry, and our equipment storage is in the boiler room. If programs are assessed to be charged this additional \$2,500 per year then there should be a minimum standard for storage size as well as; access to indoor gym time, and a level of cleanliness of washrooms and other shared spaces. The proposed rates from the VSB must include heat before and after school hours. Right now we are billed extra if we want heat after 3pm and it is expensive. Without this schools like Carleton are freezing in the basement.

Recommendations

That the Vancouver Board of Education maintains its practice of renting space for child care programs on a cost recovery basis, including the provision of heat to non-profit operators.

VSB Proposed Rental Increases at Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society										
		1		2		3	4		5	6
						Cost Recovery Proposal	Increase \$ 2 to 3		Non-Profit Proposal	Increase \$ 2 to 5
	CNH Actuals 2009/10			VSB Current Figures						
Bruce	Sept-June regular	\$3,505		Sept-June regular	\$2,456	10 months	\$6,340		\$29,441	
30 spaces				Early Dismissal Friday	\$771				\$9,246	
	School not in session	\$975		School not in session	\$243				\$2,919	
	Heat	\$531								
	Total	\$5,011		\$3,470		\$6,340	\$2,870		\$41,606	\$38,136
Carleton	Sept-June regular	\$3,505		Sept-June regular	\$2,456	10 months	\$6,340		\$29,441	
30 spaces				Early Dismissal Friday	\$771				\$9,246	
	School not in session	\$1,932		School not in session	\$934	summer	\$1,920		\$11,192	
	Heat	\$1,377								
	Total	\$6,814		\$4,161		\$8,260	\$4,099		\$49,879	\$45,718
Grenfell	Sept-June regular	\$2,979		Sept-June regular	\$2,009	10 months	\$6,340		\$24,088	
30 spaces				Early Dismissal Friday	\$771				\$9,246	
	School not in session	\$2,619		School not in session	\$1,177	summer	\$1,920		\$14,112	
	Heat	\$531								
	Total	\$6,129		\$3,957		\$8,260	\$4,303		\$47,446	\$43,489
Norquay	Sept-June regular	\$2,632		Sept-June regular	\$2,506	10 months	\$6,340		\$41,048	
30 spaces				School not in session	\$244				\$3,990	
	Total	\$3,399		\$2,749		\$6,340	\$3,591		\$45,038	\$42,289
								Increase		Increase
	Grand Total no heat	\$18,914		Grand Total no heat	\$14,337	Grand Total	\$29,200	\$14,863	Grand Total	\$183,969
										\$169,632
						divided by 120 spaces				divided by 120 spaces
						divided by 12 months				divided by 12 months
						\$10.32 increase per child per month				\$117.80 increase per child per month
Notes:										
1. Early dismissal ends June 30, 2010										
2. School not in session days increase by 10 days Sept 1, 2010										
3. CNH currently operates 2 school age programs in summer										
4. VSB figures do not include heat costs										
5. Difference between CNH actuals and VSB current = \$4577										
6. Parents may be able to sustain a \$10 per month rent increase										
7. It is highly unlikely the majority of parents will be able to sustain a \$117 per month rent increase.										
8. Fee increases occur every year in child care to cover cost increases (staff, food, equipment).										
9. Provincial operating funding for child care has not increased in many years.										
10. Carleton and Norquay schools serve populations that struggle with existing fees.										
11. Existing fee for before and after school is \$335, summer \$160 per week										

ITEM B2 - ATTACHMENT