

Request for Decision

Annual update from the Children and Youth Roundtable Advisory Panel and Recommendation on Full Service Community Schools

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Apr 15, 2013

Report Date: Wednesday, Jan 23, 2013

Type: Presentations

Recommendation

Whereas publicly-funded schools are valuable community assets and are important centres of community in many neighbourhoods; and

Whereas full service community schools have the potential to enhance youth and parent engagement and community involvement and overcome social and economic barriers to learning and participating; and

Whereas school boards need the assistance of a range of community partners to meet the complex needs of families in our communities; and

Whereas the City has a role to play in supporting strong community schools, and promoting a vision for Full Service Community Schools;

Therefore be it resolved that Council endorse the Vision for Full Service Community Schools, presented by the Children and Youth Roundtable Advisory Panel.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Kate Barber
Policy & Community Developer Child Care
Digitally Signed Jan 23, 13

Division Review

Tyler Campbell
Manager of Children Services
Digitally Signed Jan 23, 13

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Jan 23, 13

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Jan 27, 13

Background

The Children and Youth Roundtable Advisory Panel is a committed partnership of elected representatives, local experts, businesses and citizens working together to build a sense of civic responsibility to improve the quality of life for children. Among the Roundtable's primary objectives are:

- to act as a support to the Mayor and Council on matters relating to children by providing advice on the development of policies and programs to address the needs of all children in the City of Greater Sudbury; and
- to support strategies that foster and promote Sudbury's capacity to support children, parents and healthy child development, especially for those children who are disadvantaged due to poverty or any other factors that put them at risk.

The Children and Youth Roundtable Advisory Panel has prepared an update of its activities and accomplishments over the first year of its term. The summary will be presented in electronic presentation by a representative of the Advisory Panel at the January 21st meeting of the Community Services committee. Key to this update is the recommendation included in this report requesting Council's endorsement of the Vision for Full Service Community Schools.

About the Vision for Full Service Community Schools

The work of the Best Start Network in creating Best Start Hubs for young children and their families in 13 schools throughout our community has demonstrated the value of opening school facilities to children and families; strengthening the partnerships between schools and community; providing more integrated services for children and families, and building a sense of community for families, centred in local schools.

The Children and Youth Roundtable Advisory Panel has worked to expand the concept of schools as hubs of community to older children and youth and has found support for this idea from many other constituencies. The Ministry of Education's pilot "Priority Schools" initiative has created an opportunity for the Advisory Panel to work with School Board and Community partners, including Ward Councillors and Community Action Networks, to develop models of Schools as Community Centres that could be replicated in selected neighbourhood schools, to meet the needs of their local communities.

The Advisory Panel developed a "Vision for Full Service Community Schools" which has been endorsed by all four school boards, the Sudbury District Health Unit and other community partners. The Advisory Panel is currently undertaking a Report Card on Full Service Community Schools which will highlight the progress that has been made and the opportunities and challenges in moving this vision forward.

One example of a school that has made significant progress in becoming a full service school is St. David's Catholic School in the Flour Mill/ Donovan neighbourhood. The following programs and partnerships are currently underway at this school:

- Breakfast Program - in partnership with the Breakfast Clubs of Canada, Better Beginnings Better Futures, the Kinsmen Club and Holy Trinity Men's Club.
- Ojibwe as a Second Language
- Elder in the School Program - White Buffalo Road Healing Lodge-
- The School Preservation Program - Child and Family Centre
- St. Albert Adult Education Center
- Aboriginal Best Start Hub
- After School Better B Kids
- After School Homework Club
- Cambrian College/Laurentian University- placement students
- Holy Trinity Church/ Christ the King Church- parish partnership
- Love of Reading - Chapters / Indigo Book Grant
- Greater Sudbury Police - visiting program and VIP drug prevention
- Sudbury Regional Hospital Youth Diabetes Program - screening and education
- Community use of schools - youth programming and adult programming in the evening and evening healing circles for men and women through White Buffalo Road Healing Lodge.
- After school sports and clubs facilitated by teachers, EA's and community volunteers.
- Christmas gift programs

The Advisory Panel recommends that Council endorse this vision to show support for this community initiative.

A Vision for Full Service Community Schools in Greater Sudbury

Prepared for the CGS Advisory Panel on Children and Youth, May 2012

Our Vision for Full Service Community Schools

We envision a network of Full Service Community Schools selected by School Boards, in partnership with community stakeholders, in strategic, neighbourhood locations. These schools would work towards hosting a range of services for all children, families and neighbours offered during the school day, as well as during out-of-school hours.

Services will be determined by engaging neighbourhood stakeholders: students and parents, School Council, school staff, local structures (business associations, ratepayers or playground associations, Community Action Networks, Best Start Advisory Committees and local churches/faith communities).

Full Service Community Schools will:

- Use publicly funded schools to help meet the complex needs of families in our communities.
- Open schools as neighbourhood hubs- build partnerships to ease school burdens.
- Operate through partnerships with community agencies.
- Provide on-site support services to children and families through coordinated partnerships with community agencies.
- Overcome social and economic barriers to learning and participating.
- Enhance youth and parent engagement and community involvement.
- Welcome diversity.
- Recognize responsive community schools as a key to Poverty Reduction.

Full Service Community Schools will offer:

- Before and after school programs, clubs, recreation for children, youth and families.
- Programs and supports for children and families (Child Care, Best Start Family Centres, Parenting Programs, Adult Skill Development)
- Mental Health and Public Health staff to offer comprehensive programs and supports to students and the community.
- At least one "Open School" evening per week.
- A welcoming "community room" open during the school day, where possible.
- Dedicated community development staffing to develop, promote and support activities and partnerships, as funding is available.
- And others based on community needs

"Strong schools linked to strong communities have the potential to be centres of change, innovation and equity."
People for Education

Stakeholders will include:

Children, families, educators, children and youth serving organizations, neighbourhoods, businesses, law enforcement and recreation providers.

Next steps:

- Support the Ministry of Education identified "Priority schools" to pilot this model.
- Advocate to Ministries of Children and Youth, Education, Health and Local Governments for support to the Full Service Community Schools vision.
- Advocate to Government Funders to collaborate in order to fund school space for community use.
- Seek dedicated funding to hire Community Development resources.
- Educate and engage all stakeholders to work together towards Full Service Community Schools



Want to find out more?

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