

School District 5/City of Cranbrook/Key City Theatre Society Meeting
December 3, 2013
9:00 a.m.
Cranbrook School District Board Office

In Attendance:

Bill Bennett – MLA
Heather Smith – Constituency Assistant
Rob Norum – Secretary-Treasurer, SD5
Lynn Hauptman – Superintendent, SD5
Chris Johns – Trustee, SD5
Jason Tichauer – Principal, Mt. Baker Secondary
Frank Lento – Board Chair, SD5
Wayne Stetski – Mayor, City of Cranbrook
Sandra Cave – Chair, Key City Theatre Society
Gerard Gibbs – Managing Director, Key City Theatre Society
Wayne Staudt – Chief Administrative Officer, City of Cranbrook
Gail Rousseau, Executive Assistant

The agenda for today's meeting is to discuss how we, as a partnership, can work together to develop a plan to move on with the replacement of MBSS and the Key City Theatre. Discussion included:

- The City has had a preliminary discussion with the RDEK who are receptive to dialogue
- gathering preliminary figures on usage from the KCT
- no discussions have been held with MP Wilkes at this point
- Mr. Norum mentioned that we are up to date in terms of where we are situated for the MBSS replacement; i.e., that it is part of the 5 year capital plan with MBSS listed as the number 1 project
- High cost of the theatre addition of 15-18M in addition to the school from the PIR study
- the school district and the Facilities Department at the Ministry will have different figures but will be approximately 35-50M to build new school
- SD5's capital projects have been received and are on file at the Ministry
- the message is consistent from the Ministry in that there are not a lot of approvals for new schools to be built in the province; dealing with expanding districts and seismic issues
- consensus that the PIR study has very high numbers; unless another study is commissioned these are the numbers to work with
- Mayor Stetski has a meeting scheduled later this week or next week with MP Wilkes to discuss federal involvement
- opportunity for municipalities to apply for a federal grant
- Build Canada Fund – 30% contribution by municipalities and 70% contribution by the federal government; no further information about this grant at this time
- MLA Bennett mentioned the Build Canada funds have been spent for at least the next year and a half and there has been no announcement from the federal government about how much money is available to provinces

- Federal government drives infrastructure investment across country; usually focussed on water and sewer with transportation component
- Federal government gives money and expects the province to match funding
- Province has asked the federal government to develop a program which would assist smaller communities; waiting for response
- If RDEK were to contribute any money they might have to impose service agreement over all areas which would mean a referendum
- Looking at philosophical commitment which would allow us to go to other organizations to ask for money
- Until approval from the Ministry it will be hard to get money from outside partners
- There will be no new theatre until a new school is built and there will be no new school until money is raised
- 2 years minimum for construction after approval from the Ministry which process could take another two years for negotiations and tender process – 4 years total
- Time to apply for federal/provincial grants and to raise money to complete construction
- find board members willing to sign loan agreements
- build new school on school field; leave existing facility until school was ready; look at sharing sports fields with COTR; number 1 option to leave school and theatre standing until new one built, then demolish
- intention to have existing school and theatre open throughout construction
- conversations taking place with the COTR for further trades opportunities, i.e., Ace-It Projects
- employment demographics are desperately looking for skilled trades in the area
- COTR looking at expanding trades programs based on industry demand; 4000 employed in mining industry; Teck Coal wants to expand – any young person that wants to stay in community will be able to if they go into trades industry
- there is great opportunity for high school to work closely with COTR
- new programs in the next year will be announced which will integrate two school systems (high school and post-secondary)
- looking at a program which will allow students to graduate from high school with at least the first 2 years of a trades program completed
- it will be up to Boards of Education to choose what they focus on; boards need to decide what is important to the people that live here
- SD5 and new President of COTR meeting soon
- Principal Tichauer meets with COTR every 3 weeks

Next steps:

- need to make a presentation to the RDEK to talk about KCT and MBSS replacement and the need to formalize involvement of RDEK in some capacity
- KCT to finalize usage numbers
- Mayor Stetski will check with RDEK for availability
- SD5 has done everything to move this project forward
- Mr. Norum has been told that MBSS building is in relatively good shape which is not good for replacement; when the Ministry visits, students do a great job of showcasing; it

is old with many deficiencies; students are getting a really good education and roof doesn't leak; annual facility grant priority is always roofing

- Fundraising efforts for KCT will increase when Ministry approval is given
- Need to invite the new Minister of Education to visit school to keep project in the forefront
- 44 billion provincial budget - 150M surplus; not likely province will have an extra 50M this year to replace school
- give the Minister background history of strong relationship with theatre; all programs are working between theatre and school (strong argument)
- MLA Bennett will try to get the Minister here in January before house sits
- When Mayor Stetski meets with MP Wilkes he will invite him to the next meeting which will be held at the KCT; ask him for his available dates
- Invite MLA (if needed) and MLA's constituency assistant, Heather Smith, to the next meeting

Discussion occurred around a COTR Satellite office in the Elk Valley:

- Mining expansion
- Tour of Elkview mine by Teck employees/board members and Minister of Advanced Education
- Investment in main campus vs. satellite office
- Additional opportunities for trades training
- Teck committed to workers and families

Additional discussion around:

- Enrolment for adult basic education in SD5 vs. COTR
- Potential business opportunity for SD5
- Selling of vacant SD5 properties; ministry purchased vs. school district purchased; could be used as leverage

A meeting will be scheduled for the New Year. Date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.