

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43
JOINT FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1989

A meeting of the School District No. 43 Joint Family Court Committee was held in the Committee Room, Municipal Hall, 1111 Brunette Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. on Wednesday, May 10, 1989 at 7:30 p.m.

Present were the following members:

Mrs. Alison White, Chairman	-	City of Port Moody
Ald. Michael Wright	-	City of Port Coquitlam
Ald. Jon Kingsbury	-	District of Coquitlam
Mrs. Wyn Clarkson	-	District of Coquitlam
Mrs. Elke Henschel	-	District of Coquitlam
Mr. Phil MacLeod	-	District of Coquitlam
Mrs. Armida McDougall	-	District of Coquitlam

Resource persons in attendance:

Al Argue (Guest Speaker)	-	School District No. 43
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MOVED BY ALDERMAN KINGSBURY
SECONDED BY A. MCDOUGALL:

14 That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES OF F.C.C. MEETINGS -
MARCH 8, 1989 AND APRIL 12, 1989

MOVED BY ALDERMAN KINGSBURY
SECONDED BY P. MACLEOD:

15 That the F.C.C. Minutes of March 8, 1989 and April 12, 1989 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AL ARGUE - SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43

Al Argue, Director of Instructions of Student Services, School District No. 43, spoke to the Committee about the various student support services available in our School District. He distributed copies of the directory which explains these services to all members of the Committee. A copy of that directory is on file in the Clerk's Department.

Mr. Argue reported that there are 23,000 students in our School District now and the student population is growing by approximately 1,000 students per year. This School District is the third largest in the province after Vancouver and Surrey. The main growth areas are Westwood Plateau and the Port Coquitlam area. The Coquitlam Plateau section is also starting to grow. There is now a space problem in the schools. The School Board is having difficulties getting approvals for new schools and additions to schools from the Ministry of Education. This School District will have slightly in excess of 60 portables in use next year. Most of these will be in the Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam Town Centre area.

Along with this rapid growth, advised Mr. Argue, is a growing number of students with special needs. We have the same kinds of social problems as Vancouver, only with a few less students. This School District is moving in the direction of regular class placement for special students. To a greater extent they are placing more pressure on the teachers to accommodate a large variety of students.

Mr. Argue went on to describe in detail some of the various programs provided such as E.S.L. and the Secondary Alternate Programs such as C.A.B.E., CAP II, Step Up, and Ioco School Program.

With regard to the fiscal framework, Mr. Argue advised that the Ministry of Education caps the number of students that can be funded. The cap is 3.5% of the population, however, this School District has twice that number of students. Some districts don't have that many students so they can manage quite well. This capping formula has resulted in an inequity in funding.

Mr. Argue pointed out that although some social problems exist in this District, we are getting more students with problems because we are a rapidly growing School District. A lot of special students are being brought into this area because of the better social programs provided in the Lower Mainland.

One of the problems with a School District such as ours, stated Mr. Argue, is that given its size and the number of municipalities it covers, when there is a need to advocate for a particular resource or program, there is a need for a committee such as the Family Court Committee. The individual Councils respond differently to different issues and the School Board is caught in the middle of it. School District No. 43 is probably weaker than some other School Districts because we are dealing with five different municipalities and their Councils.

Mr. Argue also mentioned that they are noticing that children are dropping out of school at a much younger age than they used to.

He mentioned that the youth gangs from Vancouver are now moving out into the suburbs. There are two kinds of youth gangs: (a) the youth gangs tied into international crime syndicates, usually ethnic gangs such as the Red Eagles, the Lotus Gang or the Los Diablos; (b) the other gangs are the kids who gang together for protection. The R.C.M.P. are not equipped to deal with youth gang problems as they are in Vancouver. There is no gang activity in the schools, but it is happening outside the schools. It's only beginning but the schools and police are aware of these activities. There is a coordinated plan by the Ministry of the Attorney General to make life a little more uncomfortable for these gangs and to prevent their growth.

The School Board will be looking at ways for the schools to discourage youngsters from getting involved in these gangs and what to watch out for.

At the present time the schools are managing quite well. The police arrive immediately if they are called by the schools. If these organized gangs are successful in recruiting a number of students in our schools, then we will have a big problem.

When asked if the F.C.C. could help in any way, Mr. Argue responded that this Committee is the one unified voice the Committee's Resource people have in this District when we need assistance. Perhaps the Committee could make the point that the School District should have resources in keeping with our population.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Argue for his very informative presentation.

INTENTION TO LOBBY FOR FUNDING

It was suggested by Alderman Wright that as the F.C.C. is a lobby group, we have to have our resource people come to us if they need our assistance. It was suggested that S.H.A.R.E. be invited to speak to the Committee regarding their needs.

It was also suggested that perhaps we should have the Chairman of another Family Court Committee attend one of our meetings to speak to our Committee on how they perceive the role of the F.C.C. and any projects they have taken on.

MOVED BY ALDERMAN KINGSBURY
SECONDED BY P. MCLEOD:

- 16 That the Chairman of the Burnaby F.C.C. be invited to speak to our Committee in September.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED BY P. MCLEOD
SECONDED BY A. CLARKSON:

- 17 That, in order to inform the public of the existence and the functions of the F.C.C., a local news reporter be invited to do a brief synopsis on the Committee for the local paper.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED BY A. MCDUGALL
SECONDED BY E. HENSCHER:

- 18 That the Committee look into placing an article in the Coquitlam June Newsletter; this article to briefly explain the role of the Family Court Committee in Coquitlam.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NORTH VANCOUVER F.C.
RESPONSE TO J.R.C.

In the March, 1989 F.C.C. Newsletter, a letter from North Vancouver F.C.C. to the Attorney General is reprinted.

It was suggested that the following points from that letter be raised with our resource representatives attending our June meeting to see if they share the same concerns in the School District No. 43 area:

1. Unavailability of legal representation in Family Court, especially for women.
2. Duty Counsel should be provided to all Family Courts where the need is ascertainable.
3. The need for substantial increases in the funding to Legal Services Society and to provide a system of Duty Counsel throughout the province.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next F.C.C. Meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in Coquitlam Municipal Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY A. MCDUGALL
SECONDED BY E. HENSCHER:

19 That the F.C.C. Meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIRMAN

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NEXT MEETING DATE

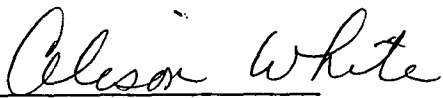
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Alison White
CHAIRMAN