

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 20, 2003

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

That a task force be created to facilitate a public/private partnership with St. Elizabeth Catholic High School (St. Elizabeth) the York Catholic District School Board (Board), Opera York and the private sector to explore funding options for a performing arts center and;

That the task force consist of the Mayor, Local Councillor Susan Kadis - Chair, City of Vaughan Festival of the Arts Committee, Victor Schiralli – Local Board Trustee, Mary Cosentino - Principal of St. Elizabeth, a Board staff member, The Honourable Tina Molinari - M.P.P. and Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Urban Housing (or designate), The Honourable Elinor Caplan - M.P. and Minister of National Revenue (or designate), an Opera York representative, and three (3) representatives from the private sector.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authority to set up a task force for the purposes of developing funding plans and securing funds from the private sector as well as the Provincial and Federal governments.

Background - Analysis and Options

St. Elizabeth staff has developed a proposal to construct a theatre on their site. The theatre is to serve their Regional Arts program, which commences September 2003, as well as the community. The theatre will be designed to accommodate primarily musical concerts and productions, dance and live theatre. The funding for the theatre was intended to come from the Board, the private sector, and fundraising.

The York Catholic District School Board approved the following resolution:

That the Board endorses the “Focus on Arts” proposal for St. Elizabeth C.H.S. as presented subject to the following:

- 1. That the total project costs for the development and construction of a theatre be established at a maximum cost of 3.5 million dollars;**
- 2. That the financing for the theatre project be generated from local school fundraising and capital funding from the Board;**
- 3. That the only committed capital funding from the Board for the development and construction of the theatre be limited to the equivalent capital value of up to 150 secondary pupil places, allocated from the secondary accommodation management plan;**
- 4. That the Board seek architectural proposals for the development of a theatre to be attached to St. Elizabeth C.H.S. subject to financial parameters noted in #1 above, and requirements listed in the “Focus on Arts” proposal presented June 11, 2002.**
- 5. That results of the architectural proposals received be presented to the Board prior to proceeding with development of working drawings and tender documentation**
- 6. That regular updates be presented to the Board on revised enrolment projects and success of fundraising efforts.**

The 3.5 million dollars is contingent on fundraising dollars. The school and Board staff has approached the City of Vaughan for assistance in their fundraising efforts in recognition that

3.5 million dollars is insufficient for the development of a performing arts centre. A partnership with the City and the private sector would make the project eligible for funding through the SuperBuild program. This program has received funding from the Federal and Provincial governments.

The creation of a task force, which includes the City, the Board, Opera York and the private sector, is the first step in developing a strategy for funding. This public/public/private partnership will explore every avenue of funding opportunities, including grant availability through government programs. The task force will report its recommendations to City Council and the Board.

Conclusion

The development of a new theatre in Vaughan will be a positive addition to the cultural facilities available to the residents of Vaughan. Vaughan's participation in this project will help make this project a reality and will ensure that the citizens' needs are considered.

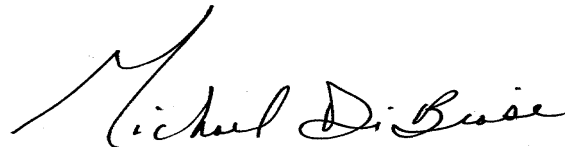
Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner, Community Services

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Di Biase". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mayor Michael Di Biase