

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 21, 2004

GLEN SHIELDS PUBLIC SCHOOL – COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Recommendation

Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio and Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommend:

1. That the Glen Shields Public School “Community School Proposal” be received; and
2. That Council provide direction on the feasibility of the Recreation and Culture Department providing resources and/or programs to the proposed Community School program; and
3. That Council provide direction on the feasibility of supporting the Community School program through funding initiatives.

Purpose

To seek Council direction on the Glen Shields Public School “Community School Proposal”

Background - Analysis and Options

Regional Councillor Frustaglio and Councillor Racco have met with the Glen Shields Public School Community School Task Force on two occasions to discuss the possibility of working with the York Region District School Board to convert Glen Shields Public School into a Community School. Although this initiative would be undertaken and developed by the School Board and Glen Shields Public School staff, the Task Force is approaching the City of Vaughan for funding and resource support, as this Community School program would benefit families in the surrounding Concord/Thornhill community.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

- 1.3.1 Develop and implement innovative alternatives for service delivery.
- 5.3 Strengthen relationship with other government authorities and agencies.

Conclusion

Such a Community School would benefit the families in the surrounding community. Council direction is required to determine how the City of Vaughan could actively support such a program.

Attachments

1. York Region District School Board Community School Proposal

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Frustaglio
Regional Councillor

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Ward 4



**DRAFT
MAY 2004**

York Region District School Board

Community School Proposal

Glen Shields Public School

“An Integrated Model”

A) BACKGROUND

Glen Shields was built in 1982 and opened with just under 300 students. In 2000, a two-story addition was added. Today approximately 534 students attend Glen Shields. We are a JK to Grade 8 school and house one of the area's gifted programs of 95 students for students who live west of Yonge Street. We have a multicultural student population representing over 30 different language groups.

Glen Shields is a Performance Plus School. A number of our families live in subsidized housing, basement apartments and other rental units. Often, two or more families share one home. Many of our students live in single parent households or in situations where both parents work in order to meet the basic needs of their families. This combined with E.S.L. issues in the home often makes it very difficult for homes to meet all the needs of their children.

Glen Shields is striving to respond to some of the physical and emotional needs that many parents are not able to meet e.g., food programs, homework support, social activities.

B) VISION OF A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A community school will respond to the needs of its population, particularly it's at risk population inside and outside of the instructional day. Community schools reach out to low-income underachieving students and families in need. They offer a variety of nutrition programs, academic/homework assistance, sports and arts programs, positive social opportunities and most importantly, a safe nurturing environment (see appendix 1). The community school is a partnership of multiple agencies and organizations.

C) RATIONALE

A community school can have a positive impact on all stakeholder groups. It raises the bar and closes the gap for our at-risk students and communities. Some of the advantages for each group include:

Impact on Youth:

- It can minimize the risk of youths joining gangs, drug/alcohol experimentation, taking part in criminal activities
- It can give the student a sense of belonging and family that may be lacking. It provides basic physical needs and increases social capital through role modeling and mentoring
- Improved attendance while reducing behavioral/discipline problems and suspensions

Impact on Schools:

- Less truancy and vandalism as students have ownership for the school
- An opportunity to specifically target at-risk students to address academic and social issues
- An opportunity to develop student leaders

Impact on Families:

- Families have greater access to community resources, parenting information etc. and form trusting positive relationships with the school
- Assistance in meeting the needs of their children that families may be struggling with

Impact of Communities:

- The quality of the community improves through increased safety, positive relations with students, pride and identity
- Cost effective access to schools to help provide services]
- Increased community partnerships

D) MODEL FOR A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Year 0: 2003-2004

- A breakfast and basketball program runs each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Selected boys from grades 6-8 participate
- A morning snack program for students from JK-Gr. 8
- A reduced rate before and after school program for primary students
- An after-school nutrition/tutorial/activity program for selected students in grades 4-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- A Youth Outreach program for at-risk students in grades 7 and 8. On Mondays at 6:00 p.m. students prepare dinner, eat together and participate in activities and dialogue about social issues and participate in community projects
- Leadership in Training
 - At risk students help out younger students in our afterschool programs
 - Summer Institute – At risk students earn an honorarium by assisting with the schools Summer Institute

Year 1: 2004-2005

- Continue breakfast and basketball program on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Continue junior nutrition/tutorial/ activity group on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Continue a primary after school program with a community partner
- Expand the Youth Outreach Program for intermediate students to include tutorial and leadership skills development from 3:30 to 5:30, followed by dinner and an activity from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday Wednesday and Friday. Once again one of the foci will be community work.
- Implement a breakfast program for students from JK-Grade 8 which would run from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
- Invite parents to participate with their children on some evenings
- Workshops for parents addressing needs that the community will identify (e.g. parenting, nutrition, substance abuse, resume writing)

Year 2: 2005-2006

- Similar outreach programs would be in place for our students in grade 9 at the secondary level
- Expand the youth outreach program to include 5 days a week at the elementary level
- Expand the junior tutorial/activity program to include dinner and an evening component
- Begin to train parents to work in the program for one of the evenings or whenever they are available

E) CURRENT STATUS

April 19, 2004

A planning meeting was held at the offices of Vaughan City Centre. Representatives from the following agencies/organizations were in attendance:

York Region District School Board: *Mr. Neil Beatty, Mr. Scott Milne, Mr. Paul DeLyon, Mr. Cecil Roach, Mr. Alan Shefman, Mrs. Myrna Beck, Mr. Neil Gunathunge, Ms. Oksana Majaski, Ms. Paula D'Orazio*

City Of Vaughan: *Regional Councilor Joyce Frustalgio, Municipal Councilor Sandra Yeung-Racco*

York Regional Police: *Sergeant Ricky Veerappan*

Association for Black Law Enforcement (ABLE): *Detective Chris Bullen*

An initial vision was shared with those in attendance and there was verbal affirmation and support for the community vision. A working task force was struck to include the following members:

York Region District School Board:

Ms. Oksana Majaski (Chair), Community Coordinator – Glen Shields P.S.
Mrs. Myrna Beck, Principal – Glen Shields P.S.
Mr. Neil Gunathunge, Vice Principal – Glen Shields P.S.
Ms. Paula D’Orazio, Program Assistant – Glen Shields P.S.
Mr. Scott Milne, Facilitator and Field Researcher
Ms. Terry-Lyn Zaremsky, Teacher, Vaughan S.S.
Mr. Paul DeLyon, Community Liaison, YRDSB

City of Vaughan:

Ms. Sandra Yeung-Racco, Councilor
Ms. Rosemary Bonanno, Vaughan Libraries

York Regional Police:

Sergeant Ricky Veerappan
Detective Chris Bullen (A.B.L.E.)

April 23, 2004

Local Glen Shields Team met with Joy Vance (Coordinator Community and Child Care, YRDSB) and Gayle Whitehead (Community Liaison Coordinator, YRDSB) to share vision and hear their input.

April 26, 2004

Local Glen Shields Team met with Derek Ambrose (Parks and Recreation, City of Vaughan) to discuss the possibility of the City of Vaughan running an afterschool care program for students in the primary division.

May 3, 2004

Once a week Youth Outreach Program for intermediate students started with the assistance of A.B.L.E.

June 8, 2004

Task Force planning meeting at the City of Vaughan Municipal Offices.

F) FUTURE TIMELINE

- May 8, 2004 - Task Force to meet to continue with planning
- May 2004 - Submit Proposal to York Region District School Board for approval
- June 2004 - Submit proposal to Council at the City of Vaughan for approval
- September 2004 - Begin implementation of Year 1 model

Appendix 1

Typical Activities in a Community School

Adult Education
Arts Education
Before/After School Programs
Career Development
Case Management
Child Care
Citizenship Education
Community Based Learning
Community Organizing
Counseling
Crisis Intervention – Anger Management
Cultural Activities
Dental Services - Screening
Early Childhood Education
ESL
Environmental Education
Family Literacy
Family Nights
Family Support Centres
Health Promotion
Leadership Training Programs
Mentoring
Multidisciplinary Curriculum
Nutrition Programs
Parent Education
Peer Mediation & Conflict Resolution
Prevention Programs
Recreation
Safety Programs
Student Support Services
Substance Abuse Prevention
Tutoring/Literacy
Violence Prevention
Volunteer Opportunities
Youth Development