

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The services of at least one crossing guard be restored immediately to every school in the City of Vaughan as per previous practice (i.e., at St. Catherine of Siena School, St. Margaret Mary School, San Marco School, and Thornhill Public School)

Purpose

To ensure the safety of pupils making their way to and from school

Background - Analysis and Options

Recent economies have resulted in the decrease in the number of crossing guards at many schools across the City of Vaughan. In some cases, this has resulted in the total withdrawal of all crossing guards---at the above-noted schools.

Besides the obvious concerns this is having with parents and teachers, the problem is compounded by the fact that provincial regulations apparently do not permit the maintenance of marked crosswalks in the vicinity of a school that lacks the presence of a crossing guard---a fact with which Council was apparently unaware at the time that this matter was previously addressed.

In short, with one stroke, these four schools have lost both their guards and their crosswalks---to the understandable consternation of parents and teachers.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

Section 1.1 of the Vaughan Vision reads: "Improve community safety through design, prevention, enforcement, and education."

Conclusion

The presence of at least one crossing guard will address concerns regarding the safety of children at the four schools not currently served by such guards.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella