

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARCH 7, 2005 (NEW BUSINESS)

VELLORE COMMUNITY CENTRE – ST. JEAN DE BREBEUF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends that the Commissioner of Finance, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Community Services and appropriate staff of the York "Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), as identified by the Director of Education, YCDSB:

- (1) prepare an analysis of the projected costs and benefits of the joint project known as the Vellore Community Centre – St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School, indicating the expected capital and annual operational savings to be derived from this joint project; and
- (2) that such analysis be presented to the Committee of the Whole meeting immediately prior to the official opening of the Vellore Community Centre; and
- (3) that at the conclusion of the first twelve months of operations of the Vellore Community Centre, a report of actual costs---including realized savings vis-à-vis programming costs, and an explanation of all variances---be provided to Council.

Purpose

To establish for the future reference of this and subsequent Councils, and for the education of other municipal councils across Canada which might consider a joint project with a local school board, the expected and actual savings which accrue from same.

Background and Analysis

If the joint undertaking of the Vellore Community Centre – St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School is not unique, it is extremely rare in that it provides for the flexible sharing of facilities in an extremely efficient way. For instance, the gymnasias in the community centre can be made available to students of the high school during school hours, while the gymnasias in the school can be made available to community centre users evenings and weekend.

To the extent that this arrangement generates significant capital and operational savings for both the City and YCDSB, it should be an item of interest to municipalities and school boards, particularly in developing municipalities. But claims of potential savings must first be identified and documented. Once done, the City of Vaughan and the YCDSB will have evidence of a highly successful model which can and should be shared across Ontario, Canada, and indeed North America.

Relation to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The joint project known as the Vellore Community Centre – St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School qualifies as a genuinely "good news" story, one which deserves to be told widely once capital and operational savings over one year have been documented.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella