



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Special Concurrent City Council/ Richfield School Board Worksession

April 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The worksession was called to order by School Board Chair Toensing at 6:00 p.m. in the Richfield School District Board Room, 7001 Harriet Avenue.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Debbie Goettel, Mayor; Pat Elliott; Edwina Garcia; Michael Howard; and Tom Fitzhenry.

City Staff Present: Steven L. Devich, City Manager; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; John Stark, Community Development Director; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Jim Topitzhofer, Recreation Services Director; Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Services Director; Pam Dmytrenko, Assistant City Manager/HR Manager; Mike Koob, Deputy Public Safety Director; Mike Dobesh, Assistant Fire Chief; and Theresa Schyma, Deputy City Clerk.

School Board Members Present: Peter Toensing, Chair; John Ashmead; Christine Maleck; Crystal Brakke; Paula Cole; and Tim Pollis.

School District Staff Present: Steven Unowsky, Superintendent; Leadriane Roby, Assistant Superintendent; and Anthony Padrnos, Director of Technology.

Item # 1	DISCUSSION TOPICS
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Superintendent Unowsky presented the 2016-2017 school district calendar. He noted that all K-5 schools would be closed for a staff development day on November 8 for student safety and to avoid disruption on Election Day. School staff partnered with election judges to help facilitate this proactive change for an election that is expected to bring high voter turnout.

The City Council and School Board discussed the following topics:

RPS Update

1. Technology Update
2. Student Achievement Update
3. Facility Study Update

Assistant Superintendent Roby and Technology Director Padrnos presented an overview of the Richfield Public Schools Innovation and Strategic Plan.

Superintendent Unowsky stated the district's focus is on student instruction and reducing class size.

Superintendent Unowsky discussed the upcoming facilities study to determine the status of all facilities in the district.

City of Richfield Update

1. Current Housing & Development Projects / Affordable housing opportunities
2. Possible partnership with China
3. School program that addresses families with a service member

Mayor Goettel provided an update on the housing situation at Crossroads/Concierge. She stated that with a transition in ownership, like with Crossroads/Concierge, old infrastructures are being updated and overcrowding issues are brought to light. The new owners have the right to decide whether or not to accept housing assistance.

School Board Member Pollis responded that the school district needs stability because losing 100 students does affect the district's budget. Housing has the biggest impact on the City and school district.

Community Development Director Stark stated that with private sales, like Crossroads/Concierge, City staff does not always know in advance. Mr. Stark added that when he was informed the sale was going to occur, he promptly contacted Superintendent Unowsky with the information.

Mayor Goettel detailed her recent trip to China to further develop a relationship between Richfield and Shouyang County, China. She also discussed the potential of a student exchange program to bring 20 Chinese students to Richfield for the upcoming school year.

Council Member Fitzhenry stated that Richfield's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee has requested a contact at the school district to help the children of military personnel. He stated the committee's goal is to identify and support students whose parents are serving overseas in the military.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:54 p.m.

Date Approved: April 26, 2016

Debbie Goettel
Mayor

Theresa Schyma
Deputy City Clerk

Steven L. Devich
City Manager