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Halifax Regional Council
June 19, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: M.E. Donovan
M.E. Donovan, Director, Legal Services

DATE: June 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Supplementary Education Funding

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

The options for supplementary funding were debated at the Committee of the Whole on March 27, 2007. The motion that was passed by the Committee of the Whole on March 27, 2007 instructed staff to proceed with the amendments necessary to the *Municipal Government Act* to implement the funding agreement. The proposed amendments were provided to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations on June 4, 2007.

BACKGROUND

Sections 530 and 530A of the *MGA* require HRM to provide supplementary funding to the Halifax Regional School Board for the former cities of Halifax and Dartmouth. In 2000-2001, Council added an area rate for use in the former Town of Bedford and County of Halifax areas. In 2006, the Province amended the *MGA* to require comparable funding for the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial.

The Agreement attached as Attachment Two to the Committee of the Whole staff report debated on March 27, 2007 requires that HRM and the Halifax Regional School Board jointly seek the required changes to the *MGA* including the authority to fund an area rate or combination of area rates under the agreement without a restriction on whether the funds will be spent in HRM. Council authorized the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into the Agreement with the HRSB concerning Supplementary Education and, in the motion, instructed staff to proceed with the necessary changes to the *Municipal Government Act* to allow the school boards to spend funds anywhere in HRM irrespective of where the funds were raised.

DISCUSSION

In response to Council's instructions, staff have drafted the required amendments to sections 530 and 530B of the *MGA* in relation to supplementary funding and have forwarded the following amendments to the Province of Nova Scotia for consideration. As these amendments are of a fairly complex nature, discussions with the Province may lead to changes to the required amendments.

Amendments:

1. In section 530 (1) deleting the words "to be used solely for the benefit of the area that was formerly the City of Halifax."
2. In section 530 (3) deleting "to be used solely for the benefit of the area that was formerly the City of Dartmouth".
3. Replacing 530(4A) as follows:

530(4A)(1) Area rates supporting Halifax Regional School Board funding may be levied on the assessed value of the taxable property and business occupancy assessments and may be different for commercial property and business occupancy assessments than for residential and resource property.

530(4A)(2) Notwithstanding section 75, the Halifax Regional Municipality may levy or charge different area rates for different areas in the municipality and the combined funds raised may be allocated by the council of the Halifax Regional Municipality for the use or benefit of the Halifax Regional School Board throughout the municipality without restriction on area.

4. In section 530(B) adding "(1) and 530(3)" after "Section 530 " and preceding, "the council shall provide additional funding".
5. To be added to the Bill introduced in the Legislature:

This Act has effect on April 1, 2007.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with this report. The budget implications in relation to Supplementary Funding were previously provided in the Budget Implications section found in the report before the Committee of the Whole on March 27, 2007.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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