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**Item No.**  
**Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee**  
**December 11, 2014**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** October 14, 2014

**SUBJECT:** HRSB/HRM Working Group

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

July 24, 2014 motion of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee receive a written update from staff on the HRSB/HRM working group.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipal Charter, Section 79 (1), (k) (av) (v):*

79 (1): The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for  
(k) recreational programs

(av) a grant or contribution to

(v) any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province

**BACKGROUND**

At the July 24, 2014 Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED) meeting, members were presented with an information report which provided an analysis of gymnasias on the Peninsula including the current status of inventory, the impact of recent facility closures, analysis of available usage hours and accessibility for all user groups within the Peninsula.

There were several concerns raised by members of the Committee related to costs for school gym rentals, the pending enforcement of the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with Citadel High School and lack of quality gyms on the Peninsula. As a result of this discussion, CPED passed a motion requesting an update from the HRM/Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) working group on the progress to date.

## **DISCUSSION**

Presently, there are two HRM staff working groups focused on the relationship with the HRSB:

1. The HRM/HRSB Working Group consists of staff from HRM, HRSB, Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) and the Provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood. The principle role of the HRM/HRSB Working Group is to provide a forum for all parties including the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to discuss on a regularly scheduled basis matters relating to anticipated changes in school communities within the municipality of Halifax. The scope is to build relationships between all parties and discuss items such as transportation, population projections, master plans as well as current and/or future capital focus. This Working group is currently developing a Terms of Reference and is expected to be an ongoing sustained committee. As new items emerge, this will be the host committee to address them.
2. There is also a one-time project based committee concentrating on the renewal of the Service Exchange Agreement between Halifax and the HRSB. The scope of this initiative is to develop a mutually beneficial relationship and agreement which addresses roles and opportunities between the two parties. The key objectives of that work are:
  - Improve community access to public schools in terms of times, locations, and costs
  - Identify roles and responsibilities for maintenance on HRSB sites
  - Identify an appropriate costing model for usage of the schools
  - Identify Municipal assets and replacement protocol when related to HRSB sites
  - Improve overall relationship between parties

The negotiations are ongoing between both parties and the new Service Exchange Agreement is expected to be presented to HRM Regional Council for review and approval in early 2015 in coordination with Council's renewal of the Supplementary Education Funding Agreement.

### **Joint Use Agreements**

In addition to these two committees, the Parks and Recreation business unit is responsible for Joint Use Agreements (JUA) with the HRSB. Joint Use Agreements are school specific agreements which outlined community access to schools in which HRM has provided funding for an enhancement such as enlarged or additional gymnasium, community space, etc. Joint Use agreements are legal contracts which require approval of Regional Council, Provincial Cabinet and Halifax Regional School Board. Currently, all existing JUA's are in the process of being updated, created or waiting for approval. A new template has been created to clarify some previous challenges and has been used to prepare the agreement for Porter's Lake Elementary/Lake and Shore Community Centre. Both HRM and HRSB have approved the template and agreement. The Province is currently reviewing it, along with the agreement. Upon approval of the template, all agreements will be amended using the template to ensure consistency.

The management of existing and the creation of new agreements have been successful in several cases and challenging in others. Appropriate community access based on HRM's financial contribution has been a constant theme and HRM continues to strive to ensure it is achieved. Table 1 below outlines the status of each JUA:

**Table 1: Joint Use Agreement Status**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status of Joint Use Agreement</b>
Basinview High School	Bedford	Requires updating with template
Tallahassee Community School	Eastern Passage	Requires updating with template
Graham Creighton Jr High	Cherry Brook	Original not approved so new agreement to be created
Cole Harbour District High	Cole Harbour	Create new agreement

Charles P. Allen/Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre	Hammonds Plains	Draft prepared, requires approval from HRSB
Citadel High School/Community Centre	Halifax	Requires updating with template
Porters Lake Elementary/Lake and Shore Community Centre	Porters Lake	Requires approval from NS Education and Early Childhood Development

### **Supplementary Education Funding**

The agreement outlining the supplementary education funding provided by HRM to HRSB expires in 2015. HRM staff is currently working with HRSB on the new agreement which will outline the supplementary education funding to be provided by HRM on a go forward basis. Staff is exploring whether HRM's supplementary education funding can form part of a solution to increasing community access to HRSB schools.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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