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B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
June 15, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis M. Rogers".

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Lewis M. Rogers, Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture

DATE: June 9th, 2004

SUBJECT: Public Enhancements - New High School Halifax Commons

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ORIGIN

At the Halifax Regional Council Meeting on June 8, 2004, Councillor Cooper made a motion that the, "Staff Recommendation be deferred to the next Regional Council Meeting (June 15th) pending a staff report regarding the implications and a further analysis particularly with respect to the population served."

BACKGROUND

This issue originated with an invitation from the Halifax Regional School Board for HRM to participate in the provision of enhancements to the new high school for peninsular Halifax which will replace Queen Elizabeth and St. Patrick's High Schools, proposed for opening in September 2006. The Province of Nova Scotia is planning the new high school to be located on the Halifax Commons in replacement of the two existing structures. The proposed structure provides fewer facilities (gymnasias and auditoria) than those currently in place between the two high schools. The current standards used by the Halifax Regional School Board provide for fewer facilities than those that were in place when the original schools were built.

DISCUSSION

Council asked staff to provide further analysis with information on user groups and populations served by these facilities. While some of this information is available, due to the complexity of this issue and the lack of a contextual study and approved policy, it is difficult to assess and make recommendations on this issue for Council's consideration at this time. Staff is anticipating completion and presentation of HRM's Indoor Facility Master Plan and Service Exchange Agreement with the Halifax Regional School Board soon. Once these two key documents are completed and approved, staff will be in a better position to more accurately respond to the School Board's request for enhancements. It is anticipated that both of these documents, along with a supplementary report dealing with the request for public enhancements to the new high school, will be provided to Council for consideration prior to Summer recess. The service exchange agreement document is scheduled to be before Council at the June 22 meeting and it is expected that the Indoor Facility Master Plan can be tabled at the same meeting for further discussion the following week.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

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.

ALTERNATIVES

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

_____ **Lewis M. Rogers, Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture**

490-5978