



December 29, 2010

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

Fr: Colleen Neil – Recreation Services Manager

Re: KDSB Request for Support of Early Years Resolution

Recommendation:

That as requested by the Kenora District Services Board, the Council of the City of Kenora hereby supports the following resolution adopted by the K.D.S.B.:-

WHEREAS since the introduction of the Best Start Initiative in 2004 it has been the expectation of the Ontario Government that all new child care spaces created in the province would be opened in Ontario's publicly funded schools; and

WHEREAS the Special Advisor on Early Learning, Dr. Charles Pascal recommended that the Province should create a continuum of early learning, child care and family supports for children from the prenatal period to adolescence, under the leadership of the Minister of Education; and

WHEREAS the Kenora District Services Board supported Early Learning and Care Centres being located in schools; and

WHEREAS on April 10, 2010, Minister of Children & Youth Services, Laurel Broten and Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky jointly announced the transfer of Child Care to the Ministry of Education; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has not provided capital funds for alterations and renovations to existing schools or for Child Care Centres and Best Start Hubs to be included in newly constructed schools which is evidenced in the Kenora District with there being no Early Learning and Care Centre planned for Riverview School currently under construction in Dryden or for the new school planned for Kenora; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors for the Kenora District Services Board believes such lack of funding for Early Learning and Care Centres in schools is not in the best interests of children and goes against the Ministry of Education's vision of creating the best opportunities for children to learn;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors requests the Ministry of Education review its capital funding policy to include adequate funding for alterations and renovations to existing schools and construction of new schools to ensure that it is consistent with the best interests of children and the Province's vision that Early Learning and Care Centres and Best Start Hubs be located in publicly funded schools.

Background:

Council has received a request from The KDSB to support a resolution background information is attached/posted with report.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

N/A