



"Together We Learn"

Memorandum

Date: November 10, 2011
To: Planning and Facilities Committee
From: Alan Cumbers, Director of Operations

Action Item: **Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352**
New Playground Equipment – Capital Requirements

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

On September 2, 2011, the Premier announced a new capital program to fund the acquisition of new playground equipment for elementary students throughout British Columbia. School District No. 23's share of this fund is \$300,000 for the 1st half of the program. To access the capital, the Board of Education is required by the Ministry of Education to adopt a Capital Project Bylaw.

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

All Capital Project Bylaws must be adopted by the Board of Education.

3.0 BACKGROUND

School District Operations staff were polled by the Ministry of Education during the summer of 2011 on the playground assets currently available at each of the sites with elementary students. As the Ministry of Education defines elementary students to be in the grades between Kindergarten and grade 7, School District No. 23 identified the six existing middle schools (grades 7, 8, 9) as having grade 7 students without any playground equipment. This resulted in an October 27, 2011, letter providing School District No. 23 with the news that under the first part of the program, we are eligible for capital funding of \$50,000 per site for a total of \$300,000. This funding is to be spent on the supply and installation of adventure playground style equipment.

Recognizing that while School District No. 23 Operations staff have a great deal of background and experience with playground equipment designed for 5-12 year old students, and very little for the 13-15 year old student, a task force was put together to review options for middle school equipment. The task force included representatives from each of the 6 middle schools, grounds maintenance, and purchasing. Equipment suppliers were requested to supply ideas and options appropriate for the young teenager. After reviewing suggestions from suppliers, it was unanimous from the group that swingsets, slides and typical playground equipment designed for the elementary schools would not be appropriate for middle schools, but that the more fitness oriented equipment would. Currently, based on the feedback from the task force, a Request for Proposal is on BCBid requesting pricing and options for fitness type playground equipment for middle schools.

4.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) The funding provided by the Ministry of Education supports the need to provide playground type equipment at our middle schools. The Ministry of Education has confirmed that our plan for fitness equipment designed for the young teenage student falls within their expectation for adventure style equipment.

- b) The Ministry of Education expects cash flow to be completed by the end of March 2012.
- c) This type of equipment will increase physical activity options at middle schools.

5.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

- 1. Approve the Bylaw as presented.
- 2. Reject the Bylaw – effectively delaying the project and putting the funding at risk.

6.0 FOLLOW-UP/REVIEW

The approval of the Capital Project Bylaw 126352 will allow staff to proceed with the award of contract for equipment and to plan the staffing required to install the equipment before the end of March 2012.

7.0 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS' COMMENTS

This project is the result of the Ministry of Education's expansion of expectations from their capital program for elementary student playground equipment. This will change the whole process at School District No. 23 with respect to the current standard of equipment supplied by the District and Adventure Playgrounds paid for by PAC's. As new schools are built, they will come with standard equipment (swings and slides etc.) and the new standard adventure playground. This will pressure the District to move away from asking PAC's to fund the replacement adventure playgrounds and public will expect us to fund replacements through minor capital programs. As the District has currently funded the maintenance of all the equipment, no increasing maintenance costs will be incurred, unless the District is then pressured to start adding more PAC funded equipment. (Currently we have a moratorium on amount of enhancement equipment we allow on any site – the value of a typical adventure playground.) Adding the six new sets of fitness equipment will require maintenance expenditures in the future that will have to be absorbed through the Grounds Budget. (Moving from maintaining equipment on 30 sites to 36 sites)

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT: The Planning and Facilities Committee forward to the Board of Education for approval:

THAT: The Board of Education give first, second, and third reading of Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352 – New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements, as attached and presented at the November 23, 2011 Public Board Meeting.

THAT: School District No. 23 Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352 - New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements, be read a first, second and third time, and finally adopted this 23rd day of November, 2011.

9.0 APPENDIX

- 1. Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352 – New Playground Equipment – Capital Requirements
- 2. Letter from Ministry of Education – New Playground Equipment - Capital Funding and Instructions.



"Together We Learn"

**CAPITAL PROJECT BYLAW NO. 126352
New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements**

A BYLAW by the Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) (hereinafter called the "Board") to adopt a Capital Project.

WHEREAS in accordance with provisions of the *School Act* the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") has approved Capital Project No. 126352 - New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements.

NOW THEREFORE the Board agrees to the following:

- (a) upon approval to proceed, commence the Project and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete the project substantially in accordance with the Project Agreement or as directed by the Minister;
- (b) observe and comply with any rule, policy or regulation of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the Project; and,
- (c) maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the Project, as may be prescribed by the Minister.

NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

1. The capital project of the Board approved by the Minister and specifying a maximum expenditure of \$300,000 for Project No. 126352 - New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements is hereby adopted.
2. This Bylaw may be cited as "School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352 - New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements".

READ A FIRST TIME THE 23rd day of November, 2011.
 READ A SECOND TIME THE 23rd day of November, 2011.
 READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 23rd day of November, 2011.

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and original School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352 - New Playground Equipment - Capital Requirements adopted by the Board the 23rd day of November, 2011.

Secretary-Treasurer



VIA FAX
Ref: 149498

October 27, 2011

Larry Paul
Secretary-Treasurer
School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
1940 Underhill St
Kelowna BC V1X 5X7
Fax: 250 860-9799

Dear Larry Paul:

Re: New Playground Equipment - Capital Funding and Instructions

On September 2, 2011, the Premier announced a new \$8 million capital program to fund the acquisition of new playground equipment and the repair or replacement of existing playground equipment. The announcement also provided that reimbursements would be made available in regard to schools where new playground equipment had been acquired this calendar year prior to the implementation of the program.

The Capital Management Branch is responsible for the allocation of capital grants to school districts under the new program, with \$4 million being made available from the Ministry of Education in each of the two fiscal years, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

The first allocation for 2011/12 involves capital funding for elementary and middle schools that districts have identified to the Ministry as not having elementary student access to adventure-style playground equipment.

The other funding allocation to school districts for 2011/12 will be a reimbursement for parent advisory councils for contributions they made to acquire playground equipment for their schools, to a maximum of \$50,000 per school. School districts can expect to be advised about the allocation of this second category of funding by mid-November.

Funding for the repair or replacement of existing playground equipment will be allocated in 2012/13, and will be available in April 2012.

For more information about the recently-announced playground equipment program, please refer to the Questions and Answers document posted to the Capital Management Branch webpage at:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/departments/resource_man/capitalmanagement.htm

I am pleased to advise that your School District has one or more schools that qualify for the first release of capital funding, based on an allocation of \$50,000 per school. Please refer to Appendix A for a breakdown of the approved capital funding for your district.

Ministry of
Education

Resource Management
Division

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9151 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9H1
Telephone: (250) 356-7814
Facsimile: (250) 387-9695

Location:
4th Floor
777 Broughton St
Victoria BC

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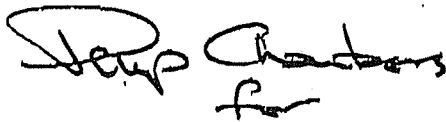
As all funding will be provided to school districts using a Certificate of Approval (COA), the Board of Education is first required to adopt Capital Project Bylaw No. 126352 in the amount of \$300,000 before the single COA can be issued to the School District by the Ministry. If you have any questions regarding the required project bylaw, please contact Cherrie Calvert, Project Information Analyst, at 250-356-6498.

Please be advised that directions received from the Ministry of Finance provide that this allocation of capital funding is intended for the purchase and installation, including site preparation, of adventure-style playground equipment for elementary grade students. If you have any concerns about the eligibility of the identified school(s) or the expenditure of these funds in accordance with Ministry of Finance direction, please feel free to contact your Planning Officer to discuss.

Please also advise your Planning Officer regarding any additional elementary or middle schools you believe might qualify for capital funding, as attending elementary students do not currently have access to adventure-style playground equipment either on-site, or at an adjacent school site or community park.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Stewart" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Doug Stewart, Director
Capital Management Branch

Attachment

pc: John Woycheshin, Regional Manager
Planning Officers, Capital Management Branch

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**Appendix A
Playground Equipment - Capital Funding**

SD 23 Central Okanagan	Capital Funding Available
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Constable Neil Bruce Middle School	\$50,000
Glenrosa Middle School	\$50,000
KLO Middle School	\$50,000
Springvalley Middle School	\$50,000
Dr. Knox Middle School	\$50,000
Rutland Middle School	\$50,000

TOTAL Funds Available \$300,000

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