

The Corporation of the Township of Gillies

Minutes of the meeting of the Gillies Council of the 2006/2010 term held on October 27, 2008 at 7 PM at the Gillies Municipal Office.

Present: Deputy Reeve - Rick Kieri
Councillors - David Smelow
Administration - Karen Caren, Clerk/Treasurer
VFD - Scott Hole, Fire Chief;
Doug Golding, Deputy Fire Chief
Visitors - Gwen Garbutt, TBDSSAB Member;
Bob Katajamaki, TBDSSAB Member;
Janette Bax, TBDSSAB Head of Child Care;
Marilyn Grudniski, Little Lions Waldorf Daycare
Laura Mastronardi, Rural Family Resource Centre

Deputy Reeve Kieri called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and by general consent recessed for 5 minutes to obtain a quorum.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with no quorum present.

Since a delegation from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) was present, the chair invited the representatives to the table to have a discussion on the Best Start Program.

Bob Katajamaki gave a history of how daycares have started to be established by the TBDSSAB in local schools in the Thunder Bay area.

The Best Start Program is an initiative of the TBDSSAB started in response to provincial funding to have schools and daycare centres work collaboratively to create family service hubs. Schools are central in a community and already have the infrastructure in place, but need to make more effective and efficient use of their space.

Together with the Rural Family Resource Centre in Murillo, TBDSSAB would like to see a satellite family service hub established in Whitefish Valley School. In order for this to be established, there would need to be a space in the school dedicated to the hub. TBDSSAB would like council's support, along with other municipalities, in petitioning the Lakehead District School Board and Whitefish Valley School for such a dedicated space.

There were some concerns from council members that having a dedicated space may reduce space that is already being used in the school for valuable purposes and that by reducing space, there may be a chance that students may need to be placed in another school to accommodate the family service hub, thus decreasing the school's enrollment.

It is the vision of TBDSSAB not to decrease enrollment but to increase it with a family service hub, so that parents may have all their children in one building, in their own community and to be able to access family services that may be limited to them if they were required to travel outside of the community to receive them.

With respect to the daycare currently operating at the Whitefish Valley School, its programming is limited to after-school care only, due to a non-dedicated space. This daycare program had a slow start due to the requirement of meeting provincial regulations mandated on daycare centres, which resulted in the program starting well into the school year last year. Currently the daycare has anywhere from two to five children per day, but there is need to offer morning and/or all day care. The cost to start this daycare program was funded by the Province at around \$6,000 to retrofit the classroom. The ongoing costs are partially subsidized by the Province, with the funding based on the number of

children attending. The program covers its costs when there are five children in attendance, but fails to meet costs when there are only two children enrolled.

TBDSSAB requested that a council member, together with representatives from the Rural Family Resource Centre, Little Lions Waldorf Daycare, the Lakehead District School Board and TBDSSAB, meet with the principal of Whitefish Valley School to determine the feasibility, including any barriers that may need to be overcome, in order to establish a dedicated family service hub at the school.

With no quorum present the chair declared the remainder of the regular council meeting inquorate and adjourned the meeting at 8 PM.

Reeve_____

Clerk_____