



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: FN-BRD-025

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: October 28, 2020

Subject: School District No. 59 – Rural Learn to Swim Grant

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize School District No. 59 to defer the 2020 Rural Learn to Swim grant, in the amount of \$10,000, for use in the 2021 calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize School District No. 59 to utilize the funds from their 2020 Rural Learn to Swim grant, in the amount of \$10,000, to assist with transportation costs to bus rural students to alternate recreational or cultural activities if swimming is not available.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Regional Board received a letter from the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (SD59), at its October 8th meeting, requesting permission to use the 2020 rural swim grant contribution of \$10,000 towards transportation costs for rural students to participate in other recreational and cultural activities due to the restrictions in place for use of pool facilities resulting from COVID-19.

On October 8, 2020, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Regional Board authorize that a letter be forwarded to School District No. 59, in response to their September 8, 2020 letter, to advise that the Regional Board is investigating its request to use 2020 grant funds, designated for Rural Learn to Swim Program travel costs, for other recreational or cultural activities.

Staff clarified with SD59 that the intended recreational and cultural activities may include bowling, skiing, skating, curling, or field trips to the local art gallery, historical society, tourism centre or public libraries, as outlined in the attached letter from SD59 dated October 26, 2020. This letter includes a second request from SD59 that the Regional Board permit the grant funds for 2020 be deferred for use in the 2021 calendar year as there is insufficient time remaining to plan and carry out any of these activities in 2020. SD59 also indicates that there will be no additional grant request for 2021 if the deferral request is approved.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

On October 8, 2020, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Regional Board authorize that a report be prepared on grant funding provided to School Districts No. 59 and 60 for Rural Learn to Swim programs in the 2020 budget year, and the functions under which the grants were provided.

In the 2020 budget year, the following grant contributions were provided to support Rural Learn to Swim programs:

- SD No. 59 - \$10,000 provided from Function 275, Grants to Community Organizations; and
- SD No. 60 - \$10,000 provided from Function 275, Grants to Community Organizations, Area B.

School District No. 59 has been regionally funded since 2006. Recently, funds were requisitioned from Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations (2019 & 2020) and prior to that, were requisitioned from Function 220 – Regional Recreation. The Regional District has provided total grant contributions of \$140,000 to support rural students learning how to swim.

School District No. 60 has been regionally funded since 2007. In 2020, funds were requisitioned from Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations. Prior to this, funds were requisitioned from Function 220 – Regional Recreation. The Regional District has provided total grant contributions of \$127,810 to support rural students learning how to swim.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

SD59 will be notified in writing of the Regional Board's decision.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

SD 60 contacted the CFO requesting to use the grant funding they received in the amount of \$10,000 to bus students to participate in swimming, as no lessons were being offered at the North Peace Leisure Pool due to COVID-19. The request was approved as it was deemed to be consistent with the intended purpose of the grant contribution.

Attachments:

1. SD59 letter dated October 26, 2020 – SD59 Rural Learn to Swim Grant
2. SD59 Letter dated September 8, 2020 – SD59 Rural Learn to Swim Grant