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Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Mayor's Office

Re: Request for Amenity Sharing MOU with School Boards for Evening/Weekend Gymnasium Use

To: Members of Council

From: Mayor Tom Mrakas

Date: February 20, 2024

Whereas the Town of Aurora recognizes the importance of fostering community engagement and providing recreational opportunities; and

Whereas schools are funded by local taxpayers; and

Whereas school gymnasiums serve as valuable amenities that can enhance recreational activities for residents; and

Whereas existing school board policies/procedures do not prioritize municipal residency within their allocation of the use of space; and

Whereas the school board charges a premium rate to use the schools on weekends causing a barrier for the Town or local organizations to afford;

1. Now Therefore Be it Hereby Resolved That this Council requests the Province and the Minister of Education to assist in making school board facilities available to local municipalities on a priority, at a cost recovery rate; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Council requests the School Boards within the jurisdiction of the Town of Aurora to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the town for the shared use of school gymnasiums on evenings and weekends; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this request be sent to the relevant School Boards, expressing the town's interest in establishing a collaborative agreement for evening and weekend gymnasium access; and

4. Be It Further Resolved That the town staff is directed to collaborate with the School Boards in drafting the terms and conditions of the MOU, ensuring clarity and fairness in the shared use of these facilities; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That upon reaching an agreement, the MOU shall be presented to Council for review and approval; and
6. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Paul Calandra – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Stephen Leece – Minister of Education, Marit Stiles Leader of the New Democratic Party, Bonnie Crombie Leader of the Ontario Liberals and all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; and
7. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration of support.