
Memorandum

To: Budget Standing Committee

Cc: Shelley Chemnitz, CAO; Kristine Douglas, Director - FMS; Dan Dillon – Director - TES

From: Darlene Faulkner, Office Manager

Date: January 26, 2018

Subject: Cost Sharing – School Boards and Crossing Guards

At its meeting of January 18, 2017, the Budget Standing Committee (BSC) asked that “staff to reach out to the police and school boards regarding the feasibility of a partnership with respect to school crossing guards”. This memo addresses that request.

Staff contacted the Superintendents of Business & Financial Services for the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board to discuss the current costs of providing crossing guard personnel for schools throughout the City of St. Catharines and the feasibility of cost sharing for these services.

Both boards indicated that cost sharing would have to involve all municipalities within the Niagara Region, and historically, ensuring the safety of students at busy intersections while walking to and from school has been the responsibility of each municipality.

The Boards advised that they were unable to identify any other school boards within the Province that cost share for crossing guard services with local municipalities, and at this time, were unaware of any provincial initiatives through their Education funding that would be able to support these additional costs at this given time.

The Niagara Regional Police (NRP) do not provide any financial support for the provision of crossing guards within the municipality, however, this year, NRP staff now have a presence at the annual crossing guard meeting held prior to students returning to school each fall. NRP continue to conduct their annual return to school traffic enforcement blitz in coordination with area crossing guard supervisors from each municipality within the Region. Further, the NRP have created a web based traffic complaint form / voice mail message centre within their Traffic Division that crossing guards now use to lodge traffic complaints such as driver’s “running through” crosswalks and others, all, at no additional costs to the municipality.