

## 11. APPLICATION TO THE RICCARTON/WIGRAM COMMUNITY BOARD'S DISCRETIONARY FUND – DANCING WITH THE STARS

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, Community Services, DDI 941-8534
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager, Recreation and Sports Unit
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding of \$11,500 from the Board's 2007/08 Discretionary Fund for the continuation of a highly successful dance programme called 'Dancing Like the Stars', in primary schools in the Riccarton/Wigram Ward. (Copy of "Dancing like the Stars" Report attached for Board information. **Attachment 1**).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In 2006 the North Hornby Healthy Lifestyle Co-ordinator, Gina Stewart, as part of her role to promote recreation and physical activity in the North Hornby area, contracted Adam Hayward to run an eight-week dance programme in the second term of 2007 for four local schools. This programme was one of several programmes that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board and SPARC funded as part of the North Hornby Lifestyle Project. Although dance has been recognised by SPARC as an activity, none of the schools in Hornby provided classes for their students. With the end of the North Hornby Project, this will be an opportunity to meet the needs of the community, by offering a similar programme in this area.
3. The aim of the 'Dancing Like the Stars' programme was to provide a healthy, active lifestyle through the provision of dance classes, in low decile primary and intermediate schools in the Hornby area. The programme ran for eight weeks, three times per week and was facilitated by two professional dance tutors (male and female) in four schools in the Hornby area. The schools were Hornby Primary School, Gilberthorpes Primary School, St Bernadettes School and Branston Intermediate.
4. The children were taught four dance routines; meringue, swing, ceroc and jive. The programme provided an opportunity for four classes of children aged nine and ten years to learn dance, dance culture and individual and team goal setting. At the end of the programme an event was organised where the young participants were recognised for a range of achievements, for example, improvement in dance and behaviour and commitment. The event which was held at the Presbyterian Church was a huge success with approximately 300 people attending. Family members showed their appreciation by applauding and cheering for their children. The benefits of the 'Dancing Like the Stars' programme have been clearly identified in the evaluation report which is attached. Some of the benefits were as follows:
  - **Social:** Tutors strongly identified the positive impact of the programme on developing appropriate boy-girl relationships. Students learnt that holding hands did not mean you liked him or her, and the focus of hand holding faded once students concentrated on moves and music. All teachers thought the programme provided a huge social experience, especially as it broke down barriers between students, "initially children were careful picking partners, at the end they were just wanting to dance, it was great to see".
  - **Behavioural:** Tutors saw improvement in areas related to team work, helping others, confidence, pride and self-esteem. One tutor commented that "one person was bursting at the seams to really have a go, where as the other half of the couple wasn't sure, but still put a lot of effort in for the partner's sake".

- **Physical:** Tutors commented that the children were more co-ordinated, had an opportunity for the chance to be physically active and had better balance and increased fitness levels.
  - One of the benefits described by the teachers in the evaluation report was the “pride and enjoyment on production night, the ability to become leaders and share their experiences and skills with other students. For example students were seen teaching other children in the playground. Other children are now interested”.
  - When the children were asked if their behaviour had changed by attending the programme they responded positively with comments such as, “getting along with boys, not losing my temper and I don’t speak to my mum in a stressed way, learnt to encourage others, feel more confident and happier, made new friends, I didn’t like dancing with a boy, but now I don’t really care I just have fun, more respectful to teachers and learning”.
  - Following the completion of the dance programme, due to demand, Gilberthorpes School has organised one of the dance tutors to come into the school once a week to teach the students. Both participants from the programme and new participants attend regularly. The school principal also noted that the boys now participate in their Jump Jam school aerobic programme, whereas previously they refused.
  - The benefits shown from the programme, demonstrates the positive social capital that is an outcome of a community interconnecting. It offered local schools an opportunity to collaborate to achieve mutual benefits.
5. Although it may seem like a high investment for an eight week programme, the short but intense duration proved a successful format and the longer term benefits have been identified. The feeling from the North Hornby schools, was that it was more meaningful to offer a high quality project, rather than diluting the programme and spreading it out. Concentration levels remained high from students during the whole period.
6. ‘Dancing Like the Stars’ has been a highly successful programme. As well as the physical and recreational benefits there are also social and behavioural benefits for the children and their families. If the Community Board chooses not to fund this programme, it is unlikely that it will continue. The programme has the support of teachers, dance tutors, school principals and Council staff.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. The North Hornby Healthy Lifestyle Project came to an end in December 2006. However the ‘Dancing Like the Stars’ programme, which was an outcome of the Project, commenced in term two 2007. There are currently no remaining funds to continue running the dance programme in 2008. Details of the budget for the programme is clearly outlined in the evaluation report. The cost of the eight week programme was \$9,300. The cost of the final event was \$2,200. The total cost was \$11,500. Approximate cost per child was \$95. All the schools are keen to see this programme continue, as well as Council staff.
8. There is currently \$44,730 in the 2007/08 Board’s Discretionary Fund.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

9. Aligns with page 170 LTCCP, regarding Community Board Project Fund.

#### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

10. Yes, see above.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

11. Application aligns with the Council's Sport and Recreation Policy and local Community Board Objectives.

#### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

12. As above.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

13. All appropriate consultation has been undertaken.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Community Board fund the amount of \$11,500 from the Board's 2007/08 Discretionary Fund for the continuation of the 'Dancing Like the Stars' programme in three Hornby primary schools and one Riccarton primary school in 2008.