From: <u>Crystal Cremers</u>

To: Board of Education; Admin Kelowna City FC; Board of Education; admin@peakfamilydevelopment.com

Subject: Urgent - Important 300+ Families Affected

Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 4:47:16 PM

Attachments: Canada Soccer - Soccer in Schools Grant recipient (1).eml.msq

Soccer in School Funding Guidelines (1).pdf Kelowna City FC - Watson Road Letter (1).pdf

Letter of Support for KCFC (1) (1).pdf

Futsal Discription.eml.msg

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Dear Board of Trustees,

My name is Crystal Cremers, and I am the owner of Kelowna City FC and President of Peak Family Development Association.

I am writing to seek your support regarding a pressing issue affecting our soccer club, non-profit organization and over 300+ families in our community.

Our programs have relied heavily on SD23 facilities for our Fall, Winter Soccer and Indoor Futsal programs for the past three years. Historically, we have secured bookings for 2-3 locations from Monday to Friday 5-9pm to accommodate our youth players, over a 16-20 week period from mid-October through late February.

Our bookings last year alone added up to just over \$20,000, and for this year, we were looking to expand our rental pool. Based on the rate increases SD23 had approved for gym usage this year, we project we would have been contributing \$35,000 to \$45,000 in revenue for the school district. We also read an article where a representative of the district had stated how rental revenue made up a significant income stream for the schools, so it also doesn't appear to connect with limiting school access.

We were disappointed to hear that SD23 has recently decided to no longer rent their facilities to soccer or futsal organizations, rejecting all our requests for indoor facility bookings for the upcoming season 2024/2025. When we emailed in requesting reasoning we were told that no reason was given.

We understand that SD23 may want to remove bookings with organizations that have previously caused damage to facilities, but removing blocks of sports completely seems like an overreaction. When I spoke to Debbie personally on the phone she told me that certain sports can cause damage to SD23 facilities, though our club has never been billed for any damage, or to our knowledge caused any damage to facilities this decision has been made without any notice or time for us to properly plan to relocate to alternative facilities.

We also fail to see how the decision was made to exclude certain sports, but allow others? It seems short-sighted at best and exclusionary at worst. Moreover, attached is an email to Debbie at rentals with documentation on the game we play, futsal and the equipment we use. I am also reviewing the public meeting minutes, and I am trying to locate in writing this decision that was made by the planning and facility committee. If you can, please send those to me for review.

This abrupt decision, made without discussion or consultation with us, has left hundreds of players and their families without a place to train and play as of October 21, 2024. We have explored alternative options, including private churches, private schools, and neighbouring communities like West Kelowna, but are struggling to come up with viable solutions.

We understand that SD23 can make decisions for their facilities as they please; however, the lack of consultation or discussion without notice has put us into a crisis for facilities.

We had also received a provisional grant from Canada Soccer to deliver their <u>'Soccer in Schools'</u> program to several schools in our district, which is now in jeopardy in light of this decision. We submitted our grant application, along with several letters of support from School Principals from SD23 on June 20th to the board, to deliver more programming at no cost to schools and players who may not be able to access traditional sports programs. We have also discussed this decision with representatives from BC Soccer, who were extremely disappointed to hear of the decision to ban bookings from indoor facilities.

We would also posit that the over 300+ families in our club are also largely attendees of SD23. We additionally have SD23 staff with children in our program, so it seems like what could be a hugely beneficial community resource to these families is being taken away.

We kindly ask that you consider alternate solutions to excluding Futsal from your indoor facilities. Our options are extremely limited, and without immediate intervention, this situation could garner significant public attention and concern.

We sincerely hope that SD23 will recognize the importance of this issue and provide the necessary support, or at least entertain a discussion, to ensure these players can continue their training and activities this fall and winter. We need time to plan and execute relocating these families to alternative facilities for the 2025/2026 season. Your assistance is vital in fulfilling our commitments to these families and maintaining the vibrancy of our community's sports programs.

I have also attached the email we sent to the board on June 20th with details of our grant to open up dialogue regarding our Grant Funding and requirements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and hope we can work together to find a solution.

Sincerely,

Crystal Cremers





Crystal Cremers

Director of Finance - Kelowna City FC

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