
Re: Ellison Elementary School Grounds

From Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>

Date Mon 2025-10-06 2:51 PM

To Kristina Finamore [REDACTED]

Cc Jon Rever <Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca>; Delta Carmichael <Delta.Carmichael@sd23.bc.ca>; All Trustees <All-Trustees@sd23.bc.ca>; Lise Bradshaw <Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca>

Dear Kristina,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out and share your thoughtful concerns regarding Ellison Elementary School. I appreciate your care for both the school and the community, and it's clear that you have a strong connection to Ellison as an alumna and parent.

I understand your concerns about the playground facilities, maintenance, and outdoor play space. These are important considerations, as safe and engaging outdoor environments play a vital role in students' well-being, physical development, and overall learning experience.

I am copying this email to our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Jon Rever, who will be able to ensure your concerns are directed to the appropriate individual within the district for review and follow-up. Some of the issues you've raised—such as the playground area that falls under the Regional District of Central Okanagan's responsibility—do involve shared jurisdiction, and we appreciate your efforts to engage both the District and the RDCO.

Once again, thank you for your advocacy for Ellison Elementary and for reaching out to share your perspective. Your commitment to your children's future school community is valued and appreciated.

Warm regards,
Julia Fraser
Board Chair, Board of Education
Central Okanagan Public Schools

Warmest Regards,

Julia Fraser

Board Chair & Ex-Officio of All Committees,

Central Okanagan Board of Education

Resolutions Committee Chair,

BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch

Cell: 250-681-0269

Email: Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live, work & play on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Okanagan People.

From: Kristina Finamore [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:17:07 PM
To: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Ellison Elementary School Grounds

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Good Afternoon Julia, my name is Kristina Finamore, I'm reaching out as I am at a loss of where to go next. My concerns are about the Ellison Elementary School. My children will hopefully be attending there next September and as an Ellison alumni I am honestly concerned about there attending.

Over the past few years we have gone to our fair share of playgrounds in Kelowna, and with living in the Ellison/Scotty Creek area community we have spent a lot of time at the Ellison elementary school grounds. I truly feel like Ellison is a forgotten school. I understand there is a property separation with the school district and the regional district, and that can cause some conflict of who is responsible for what.

My main concerns are the playground, or lack thereof. Ellison Elementary by far has the smallest playground. I understand that the regional district removed the playground they were responsible for due to it being deemed unsafe, completely understandable. Unfortunately after two years without that playground being replaced and after speaking with someone at the RDCO, they told us there is no funds to replace it at this time. The kids need more. The playground structure that is there is really disappointing for the number of children at that school. In comparison to any other school within the SD23, I would say it's 1/4 the size. Elementary kids need that outlet of climbing, coordination, and balance.

The maintenance has really been forgotten. I attended that school and it was truly beautiful then, now unfortunately it seems to barely get any landscaping and is just a hazard. The new GaGa Ball arena they put in.. on a slanted hill in the mud with a rubber mat put over. Any other installment I've seen at other schools, it's put on a flat concrete area.

We live within walking distance to the school and I would love nothing more than for my kids to attend there. My concerns are for my children not being able to have the outlet they need to be able to focus inside the classroom, I want to be confident in their education and we all know how important recess is for kids that age to be able to learn through coordination of climbing and body awareness.

I also will be sending this email to Tara Armstrong, please let me know if there is another person I need to speak with about my concerns and if there is a plan in place for the future of the Ellison Elementary School.

Thank you for your time, I hope to speak soon. Kristina