



Laura Veasey <lauraveasey@gmail.com>

KELSET PAC - reimbursement of fundraising money following closure of natural playground

Laura Veasey <lauraveasey@gmail.com>

Mon, May 28, 2018 at 1:41 PM

To: Chuck Morris <cmorris@sd63.bc.ca>

Cc: EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca, Cathryn Crocket-Moore <ccrocket@sd63.bc.ca>, Zabrina Fieldhouse <zabfield@shaw.ca>, Meghan Judson <mjudson5@gmail.com>

Noted (disappointingly).
Laura Veasey

On Mon, May 28, 2018 at 1:04 PM, Chuck Morris <cmorris@sd63.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear Ms. Veasey,

As stated in a previous conversation with you, I inherited the drainage swale along Kelset north property line two years ago when I arrived at SD 63. I am unsure why permission was given at the time to place obstructions in the path of the water (8 or so years ago) as the make up of the ground (high impervious clay content with a little sandy loam topped by inches of topsoil) was very suspect to allow a play area in the middle of it.

As we found out, the damage from the few years of children playing in the water created situations whereby water flowed onto a neighbors property. Drainage from the play field was blocked, allowing water to back up and create pressure elsewhere, contributing to the issue. We reviewed the original files and had a Geo-Tech Engineer come out and do another survey of what we were experiencing. His findings were the same as what I found.

Needless to say, the small old wooden boat was removed, all the stumps and boulders were removed and other pieces of concrete etc we found along the swale. Because this is a sensitive area and subject to further damage if children were allowed back into it we have fenced it off. This allows the district to protect the drainage from further damage and from water transferring over the surface or laterally in the sandy loam onto our neighbors property.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer any of the \$5,000 that you indicated PAC spent a number of years ago, back to them. The repairs once completed ended up costing us around \$20,000.

Kind Regards,

Chuck Morris, CTech
Director of Facilities
School District No. 63 (Saanich)
[2125 Keating Cross Road](#)
[Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2A5](#)
Tel: 250.652.7341 | Fax: 250.652.9433
E: cmorris@sd63.bc.ca | www.sd63.bc.ca

From: "Laura Veasey" <lauraveasey@gmail.com>
To: "Chuck Morris" <cmorris@sd63.bc.ca>, EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca
Cc: "Meghan Judson" <mjudson5@gmail.com>, "Leila Sinclair-Wise" <lsinclairwise@sd63.bc.ca>, "Cathryn Crocket-Moore" <ccrocket@sd63.bc.ca>, "Zabrina Fieldhouse" <zabfield@shaw.ca>
Sent: Monday, 28 May, 2018 12:28:19
Subject: Fwd: KELSET PAC - reimbursement of fundraising money following closure of natural playground

Dear Mr Morris (SD63) and the Ministry of the Environment,

As I haven't received any response on this matter, I am sending my letter to you again.

Please find attached a letter for your consideration regarding the closure of our natural playground and reimbursement of fundraising money for what was a District-approved project. I appreciate your attention to this matter that is so close to our hearts at KÉLSET Elementary School.

Yours faithfully

Laura Veasey, Communications Coordinator and on behalf of KÉLSET Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Veasey** <lauraveasey@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 3, 2018 at 7:33 AM

Subject: KELSET PAC - reimbursement of fundraising money following closure of natural playground

To: Chuck Morris <cmorris@sd63.bc.ca>, EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Zabrina Fieldhouse <zabfield@shaw.ca>, Meghan Judson <mjudson5@gmail.com>, Cathryn Crocket-Moore <ccrocket@sd63.bc.ca>, Leila Sinclair-Wise <lsinclairwise@sd63.bc.ca>

Dear Mr Morris (SD63) and the Ministry of the Environment,

Please find attached a letter for your consideration regarding the closure of our natural playground. I appreciate your attention to this matter that is so close to our hearts at KÉLSET Elementary School.

Yours faithfully

Laura Veasey, Communications Coordinator and on behalf of KELSEY
Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)





KELSET Elementary PAC

www.kelsetpac.com

kelsetpac@hotmail.com

03 May 2018

To: Chuck Morris (cmorris@sd63.bc.ca); Ministry of Environment BC
(EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Sir or Madam

On behalf of the KELSET Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), I am writing to you to request your sympathy and assistance in a matter close to our hearts.

In the Fall of 2014, KELSET PAC voted to spend \$5,000 of their hard-earned fundraising money to support a natural playground at our school; these funds are documented in the budget dated 24 December 2014. After careful consideration to approve spending this amount, the project was taken to and approved by the SD63 district and given the go ahead.

The natural playground, included stepping stones, logs, a boat and signs which were carefully created using volunteer money and volunteer hours so it means so much more to us than just a stream or creek - endless hours of fun have been had in the area, the children just loved the experience 😊

KELSET PAC have put together a wonderful video of the children enjoying this natural playground and the stream/creek - please view it here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILOdd_e3ZYQ&feature=youtu.be

Unfortunately, this Spring, the District and Ministry of Environment have had to very quickly close the entire area down due to reported water flow issues onto neighbouring property. This decision has sadly not had any input from the PAC and the school community feels a great loss from losing this natural playground we worked so hard to put in place. I have attached some 'before and after' photos.

We would like to kindly request that between the District (SD63) and the Ministry of Environment, that the KELSET PAC be reimbursed the \$5,000 volunteer money that funded this district-approved natural playground so we can invest the funds in a new natural playground/a similar project that inspires the children to spend time in the fresh air.

We appreciate your consideration, and trust that you will agree this is a very reasonable request.

Yours faithfully

Laura Veasey, Communications Coordinator and on behalf of KELSET PAC

lauraveasey@gmail.com









Lily V

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