
Subject: Email - Communication - Murray Gross - Optimist Park and Saskatoon Public School Division SPSPD - CK 610-11
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From: Web NoReply
Sent: February 06, 2021 6:21 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Murray Gross - Optimist Park and Saskatoon Public School Division SPSPD - CK 610-11

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Saturday, February 6, 2021 - 18:21

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Saturday, February 06, 2021
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Murray
Last Name Gross
Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Avenue J S
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Optimist Park/SPSD
Meeting (if known)
Comments Please see attached

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

February 6, 2021

Dear Saskatoon Public School Division Trustees and Saskatoon City Council:

I am writing to express my disappointment with the Saskatoon Public School Division regarding the lack of consultation the Division has undertaken regarding the proposed closure of three core neighbourhood / community schools and the proposed development of a 'super school'. In my mind, the attitude of the Public School Division and its Trustees has been nothing short of cavalier.

And now it has come to my attention that the School Division has proposed converting Riversdale's Optimist Park into a school, complete with underground parking. I respect that City Council must respond to this proposal and is considering it. I would like to remind Councilor Gough and Saskatoon City Council that:

"Due to its history, the neighbourhood currently falls 1.56 acres short of the "City of Saskatoon's Neighbourhood Park Space Entitlement" with only 8.57 acres of neighbourhood park space (Optimist Park at 7.09 acres and Isinger Park at 1.48 acres)." Riversdale Local Area Plan - Final Report, 2008, Page 83

"Based on the formula for calculating park space allocation standards set out in the Parks and Open Space Policy, King George is entitled to 7.70 acres (3.1 ha) of park space, indicating a deficiency of 5.45 acres (2.19 ha)." King George Local Area Plan – Final Report, 2001, Page 42

As a resident of the West Industrial neighbourhood, I note, my neighbourhood does not have a park within its boundaries.

As such, I would encourage Councilor Gough and Saskatoon City Council to reject the proposed conversion of Optimist Park to a school. Further, I would encourage the Trustee Vernon Linklater and the School Division to engage in meaningful dialogue and consultation with concerned parents and others regarding the proposed closure of the three community schools, including discussions regarding rehabilitating and building onto/beside current schools

Should the Division choose to close these schools and build a new super school in their place; again I encourage the School Division to engage in meaningful consultations. Further, the School Division may wish to consider locating this school to a vacant site, such as the former P&H Elevator, a detoxified brownfield such as the Imperial Oil/Diamond Autobody site or the City owned/rented concrete plant.

I wish to acknowledge the development of the 17th Street Walking path (and increased snow plowing) and the Frida Ahenakew Public Library, however, I would also point out, from a community health perspective, the lack of a grocery store in Ward 2, heavy industrial businesses/brownfields and the lack of a City Recreation Centre in our core neighbourhoods. Resolving these issues, I believe should be priorities for all levels of government in our core communities.

Thank you,

Murray Gross