

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Megan Van Buskirk - 2024 and 2025 Prioritized Budget Options - CK 430-72 x 1700-1
Attachments: SASF letter to City Sept 7 2023.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 3:13 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Megan Van Buskirk - 2024 and 2025 Prioritized Budget Options - CK 430-72 x 1700-1

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

Submitted on Thursday, September 7, 2023 - 15:09

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Thursday, September 07, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Megan

Last Name: Van Buskirk

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] 20th St. W.

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatchewan Environmental Society

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Governance and Priorities Committee

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 8.3.1

Comments:

Please see the attached letter. Thank you!

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No



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September 7, 2023

Governance and Priorities Committee
222 - 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5

Re: Agenda item 8.3.1, 2024 and 2025 Prioritized Budget Options, Option 11 –
End Student Action for a Sustainable Future program contribution

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council:

While we recognize the difficulty the City of Saskatoon (City) must be experiencing in having to make budget cuts to reduce the projected funding gap the City would face in the 2024-2025 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget, we respectfully request that funding for the Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) program remain intact. Ending this program would be a monumental loss for Saskatoon students and teachers.

SASF is an award-winning City of Saskatoon program that launched in 2013 and has been coordinated by the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) since 2015. SES is a non-profit, registered charity that has been working in Saskatchewan for over 50 years. SES is seen as the leading expert in providing energy conservation resources by both educators and community organizations. SASF involves teachers and students from both the Public and Catholic divisions in **action and inquiry projects that reduce classroom, school, and household greenhouse gas emissions**. Each project results in positive reductions in the areas of energy, water, waste, food, biodiversity, and/or transportation. Over the last decade, the program has involved more than **146 teachers, 72 schools, and approximately 3,400 students** in both elementary and high schools.

SASF engages students, encourages lifelong learning, and builds strong relationships throughout the school community while achieving curriculum outcomes in many subjects. SASF builds the capacity of teachers in Saskatoon to teach and act on climate change and environmental sustainability by introducing them to the City's Strategic Plan, the City's Low Emissions Community Plan, and to community organizations that are working towards a sustainable future. SASF also helps students build **strong civic leadership skills**. This past year—in addition to all the tangible energy, water, and waste saving projects—students met with school division personnel, presented to City Council, wrote letters to businesses, and communicated sustainability goals with other students, teachers, and parents. And post-program survey responses illustrated that **79% of participating elementary school students** feel they have a positive impact on their environment after going through the SASF program.

SES would be pleased to have further discussions with the City to determine ways in which we can mutually benefit from the continuation of the SASF program in 2024-2025 and beyond. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Acting Executive Director.

Megan Van Buskirk, Acting Executive Director