

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: K. Berg Question for grad ceremonies
Date: October 31, 2022 2:21:21 PM

From: Kathy Berg <>
Sent: October 28, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>; Naomi Bailey <Naomi.Bailey@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Question for grad ceremonies

CAUTION: External Message

Good evening:

I am hoping this email finds you well.

I am writing tonight to hopefully start a discussion around the school district's decision to not be involved at all with prom ceremonies. I understand there was an instance almost 10 years ago that resulted in this decision being made. I completely understand there is a risk to be involved, in fact I held that risk last year as the committee head for Dover Bay 2022.

As you can see below, we reached out to the administration at Dover Bay to offer prizes, awards, donations etc. with the leftover funds we had through fundraising and ticket sales from the students and parents of Dover Bay. Our email was never responded to. Even if they felt they could not take the funds, a reply to say this would have been the most appropriate communication. Every year the prom committee offers a "legacy gift", which I will add has always been accepted and we did not as a result of this.

Our committee decided to give a gift card to the Outreach Teacher to purchase art supplies, the 6 presidents of the Student Council all received a gift card from us for their volunteerism, bursary for \$1500 for 2023 and we sponsored 12 grads who could not afford to attend prom otherwise. We had left over lanyards purchased saying "Dover Bay 2022", no mention of prom. When one of our mom's dropped these off to ask if they could be given to the grads not able to attend, she was told by the secretary this put her in an awkward position. Please tell me how? The funds to purchase the lanyards again came from fundraising and ticket sales from Dover students/parents...what is awkward about that? In the end they were taken but made what could have been a happy situation, soured.

The result in the district not being involved by any means, needs to be reviewed. We speak of inclusiveness, this decision makes this impossible to have happen, With no communication allowed at the school including posters, morning announcements or a way to communicate to the families (which would be a privacy issue from a parent but allowed by admin) we completely rely on Facebook and word of mouth. Many families do not use this application, making it difficult to reach all grads. How is this promoting inclusion, shouldn't all have the opportunity to decide if they will attend? We found out 1 girl did not come as she couldn't afford...we promoted we would assist

those who couldn't but her family was not on our Facebook page so she didn't know and didn't attend. This made us so sad to hear and how many others were there? I am sure all of you had an opportunity to attend your prom and I remember mine so clearly which included my teachers and principals, it was a great night! My friend's kids in other districts all over BC had this opportunity because their districts are involved.

Completely understand there is liability, this is what insurance is for. It cost us \$400, so for 5 schools in SD68, that is \$2000 which could come from ticket sales/fundraising. It would not even need to be planned by the school only, many parents would be more than willing to assist with decorating, ticket sales, fundraising and more. We felt like broken records throughout the year every time we had a parent ask why we couldn't do a bottle drive at the school, why we couldn't sell tickets at the school, why a teacher parent couldn't help and more. To be honest, the school not being involved was ludicrous to them as they know other districts do participate.

As we are starting with new trustees this year, a new outlook after 2 crazy years, please at least review this decision honestly, not to just say you did. If you could have seen the amazing time these kids had at their proms last year and how well behaved they were, you would be proud! Don't let an incident that happened 10 years ago continue just because "we've always done it this way". We were so happy to be a part of this night, even after a lot of work and time. The kids were so appreciative and their smiles and endless dancing made all the hard work worth it. Be a part of it and their end of school experience. Not all will graduate or go off to university, this is their night to shine!

Happy to discuss further, in fact look forward to it!

Kathy Berg and the Dover Bay Prom Committee
604-626-7412

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

From: **Kathy Berg** <kathyberg@telus.net>
Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 6:15 PM
Subject: Fwd: Question for grad ceremonies
To: <doverbayprom2022@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathy Berg <kathyberg@telus.net>
Date: June 9, 2022 at 10:41:43 AM PDT
To: Anna Mohit <>, Geoff Steel <>, Skye Dimmick <>
Subject: Re: Question for grad ceremonies

Good morning!
Just following up on this request, please let me know
Kathy
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 6, 2022, at 9:04 PM, Kathy Berg <kathyberg@telus.net> wrote:

Hello!

On behalf of the prom committee we have a gift for the school but we also \$\$ left we would like to have go to the students from 2022.

We have \$2000 we'd like to contribute as a gift(s) to maybe a less fortunate student(s) to help them in the future or a purchase of prizes for more grads? Looking for ideas how we could.

These kids have had a rough 2 years, be so great to give more!

Please let me know

Kathy for the prom committee

Sent from my iPhone

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