

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: football players" mental health and semi final game
Date: November 24, 2021 10:39:28 AM

From: Jack Bruckman < >

Sent: November 24, 2021 7:35 AM

To: Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; Jessica Stanley <Jessica.Stanley@sd68.bc.ca>; Chantel O'Neill <Chantel.Oneill@sd68.bc.ca>; Elaine Wilkinson <Elaine.Wilkinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Tania Brzovic <Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca>; Stephanie Higginson <Stephanie.Higginson@sd68.bc.ca>; Bill Robinson <Bill.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Don Balcombe <Don.Balcombe@sd68.bc.ca>; Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Deputy Superintendent <DeputySuperintendent@sd68.bc.ca>

Subject: football players' mental health and semi final game

CAUTION: External Message

Dear District Trustees,

I am reaching out as a parent and community member on behalf of my two sons who play on the Varsity football team for John Barsby Secondary School. This Saturday was scheduled to be a playoff game at BC Place and you have no idea how hard the team has worked to get there. To have it canceled on them now and told that this season doesn't matter after a year or more of having no programs at all after COVID, is just devastating.

We fully understand the essential travel order and as a community we have all stayed off the roads, car pooled to practice, and stayed local since the flooding catastrophes began. Other districts have made the choice to play and if we are not allowed to compete then we automatically forfeit and lose the opportunity that all the team has worked so hard on for the last several months.

Rain or shine, the team showed up for practice and they are proud of their accomplishments and tenacity and dedication. The team includes a Nigerian recent immigrant, a Syrian refugee, and many kids who are playing football for the first time joining Seniors who have worked hard the last several years to get to where the team is now, finally ready to compete in a playoff game since 2014. Covid already ruined a huge part of the high school career of many students as they struggle with resilience and mental health adjusting to the new normal. These kids deserve to have the support of their district to help them follow through on their goals and to not have their hopes dashed and the season be closed on them while their opponents are allowed to travel and compete.

I am not sure if any of you have a high school age child in the district so if not, please allow me to confirm for you that these Seniors are trying to put on a brave face and are hoping all the adults in the room ultimately have their back. A global pandemic already affected their lives and educational trajectory and you may think that this is just a football game and no big deal, next year they can try again....no it's a really big deal, for their emotional resilience, mental health, and pride in their community in the midst of a constant barrage of bad news and an unknown future, this game right now is what they are living for and have worked hard for all season long. Please don't let them down and ask them to just let it go and that your hands are tied. You make the decision and can demonstrate how much you support the students in your district that you are responsible for, and that you believe in them 100% and support their endeavors and hard work. This is more than a

game, it's a chance for them to shine and be proud of themselves and show that they are survivors and show how a community comes together to support their younger members who work hard, stay focused, and strive to achieve great things.

Thank you, Jack Bruckman
Barsby parent

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