

Dear Members of the Board,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the limited access to our district's athletic facilities for community programs, particularly in comparison to the more inclusive policies of neighboring districts like Riverside. As a Deer Park area 3U/4U/5U/6U football teams and 8U/12U Cheer, we have repeatedly sought to host games on Deer Park fields to instill community pride and offer our young athletes a supportive local environment.

It is disappointing that, while Riverside not only granted us access to their fields but also provided a welcoming atmosphere—with music during warm-ups, scoreboard use, player announcements, open restrooms, and even a Kona Ice truck to keep everyone cool—Deer Park continues to deny us the same opportunity. Other neighboring districts, including Newport, Ferris, Mt. Spokane, Reardan, and Rogers, have welcomed us to use their facilities, yet Deer Park remains an exception.

The rationale that our fields might be damaged seems unfounded, especially when other schools manage to accommodate us without issue. What is even more troubling is a remark reportedly made by our athletic director: "I don't want to have to work more than I have to." Such a statement reflects a lack of commitment to community engagement and contradicts the values we aim to instill in our young athletes. It raises the question of why our facilities are reserved almost exclusively for school sports when they could serve a greater purpose in fostering broader community involvement.

As taxpayers, we are regularly asked to support bond measures that fund these facilities, yet we face limited access when it comes to community use. This leads many voters to question the justification for investing in amenities that primarily serve only one segment of the population. The district's posture of restricting community use of its facilities makes it exceedingly difficult for many of us to support future financial initiatives.

Our local youth, many future Deer Park Stags, deserve the opportunity to practice and play in their own community on fields funded by their families' tax dollars. We urge the board to reevaluate its policies on facility access. Allowing community organizations, such as MSMYF, to use our athletic fields would foster a more inclusive environment and promote greater community engagement. It would also demonstrate the district's commitment to the development and well-being of all its youth, not just those involved in school-sponsored activities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to positive changes that enhance community engagement and expand access to our district's facilities.

Sincerely,

Deer Park
Calissa Goble
Deer Park
Caryn Berg

Kathleen
or Labetha Phillips
Caryn Berg
Deer Park

nmj

Derek Miano

Nichole Pickwood

Gillian Seals

Stephanie Bunning

Sam Diaz

CF

Sam

Jim Hill

~~GA~~

Kem Stafford

Karu Stafford

Michael Crawford

Col Moulton

Whit Galt

~~May~~

~~Carl~~

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Sincerely,

[Handwritten signatures and names:]
Lindsay Letstrom
Alyse Kuehn
Justin
Jacob
Dan Gadar
Chris Knapp
Brent
Marty
Tara

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The rationale that our fields might be damaged seems unfounded, especially when other schools manage to accommodate us without issue. Denying these youth access reflects a lack of commitment to community engagement and contradicts the values we aim to instill in our young athletes. It raises the question of why our facilities are reserved almost exclusively for school sports when they could serve a greater purpose in fostering broader community involvement.

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What is up with
Sincerely, This Duke Paul
Zippung Hoemel
Mel Wright
Sarah Martz
Jel Hoemel
Kelli Smith
Cheryl Frost
Cheryl Frost