

To the SW School Board,
We'd like to bring some recent changes to your attention.

Beginning in July, SWSD began charging SWP&R for use of gym space at SW Middle School (now South Whidbey Community Center).

For at least the last 14 years, there has been an inter-local agreement in place between the Parks & the School District. Until now, this inter-local agreement has facilitated mutual sharing of resources, without any charges back and forth. To that end, the Parks have used gym space for programs like basketball, dodgeball, etc. To that same end, the Schools have used field space, trails, and picnic/playground facilities. Additionally, the sharing of equipment has facilitated work on fields that the school district owns. This cooperative and collaborative arrangement has benefited both our agencies year after year.

With the restructuring of the School District and the conversion of the Middle School campus to a Community Center, the School District has begun charging fees for new Park District programs occurring at the middle school. In a discussion with Dr. Moccia and Mr. Poolman Park District staff and board members were informed that these fees were within the language of the inter-local.

We present to you here, copies of the inter-local agreement, along with copies of the current P&R Facility & Field Use policy. Additionally, we've enclosed a copy of a recent invoice from the school district, for use of gym space to support a seniors pickle ball program.

I'm here tonight on behalf of the entire SWPRD board with the following purposes in mind...

- 1) We would like to verify that this Board is aware of, and still supports this inter-local agreement. We think that is important, because as time goes by, the signatories have moved on, and this is one of those agreements that easily gets "mothballed" in the archives.
- 2) We would like to understand from this board that this new, "pay to play" initiative is supported by the School Board, and that it is your intent that we move forward in this manner.
- 3) We would like to make clear that we (SWP&R Board) believe that this change of direction is NOT in the best interests of our community - not for our mutual programs, not for our youth, not for our adults & seniors, and not for our taxpayers.
- 4) We would ask for your evaluation and response in the next 30 days, as this action will affect our planning and budgeting, as we move forward into 2019. If we now are going to charge for facilities use, we need to re-evaluate how we budget for that. We also need to re-assess how we invoice for use of Parks properties and equipment for School District activities.
- 5) We would request a copy of the School District Policy on Facility Usage and the current approved rate chart/conditions for our usage of school district facilities.

We would like to reiterate - the SWP&R Board believes that the inter-local agreement between our two agencies is in the best interest of our community, and benefits both of our agencies. We believe that charging each other for usage creates a "shell game" of moving taxpayer \$\$\$s from one bucket to another...and we believe that in the long run this is adverse to the best interests of both organizations.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Helpenstell
SWP&R Board Chair