



**WEST VANCOUVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
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October 30, 2008

Mayor Bob Turner
and Members of Council
Bowen Island Municipality
Bowen Island, B. C.
V0N 1G0

Dear Bob:

Members of the West Vancouver Board of Education were very pleased to meet with you and your colleagues on Council earlier this fall to discuss issues of mutual interest to both parties. These annual liaison meetings are proving to be an important part of our ongoing efforts to work collaboratively on behalf of students and the broader Bowen Island community.

As you know, much of the meeting was spent discussing the challenges we face together in bringing to completion the plans for a new artificial turf field on the grounds of Bowen Island Community School. The Board of Education fully supports this proposal, and is anxious that the implementation of the plans developed through this School Community Connections Grant move forward as quickly as possible. That said, we learned a great deal from members of Council at that meeting, and considered all of this carefully when the project was discussed again at our most recent public Board meeting on October 7th.

We had agreed to review the recommended location for this new field in light of concerns expressed on the island, and had asked our Facilities Director, Richard Divine, to see if another location on our property might prove to be equally suitable. Unfortunately it appears that this is not the case. The Board is very concerned that any adjustment to the current grass field would leave the school and the island community without a full size field for many years. The school continues to be the centre of community recreation, and we place great importance on the value of fitness and athletic opportunities as we all strive to live a healthier lifestyle. This is particularly important for the children and youth for whom we are responsible.

As a result, we urge Mayor and Council to proceed as quickly as possible with the construction of the new artificial turf field on the school site originally recommended by the Steering Committee. The Board is aware of the new adjusted deadline for completion of this project, and is concerned that the unique opportunity provided to both levels of government might be lost if progress is not made in the immediate future. We very much want to see this new field become a reality for the children and youth of Bowen Island.

Please let me know if there is anything that we might do to provide support to Council as you consider this important project in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Ann Booth
Chairperson, West Vancouver Board of Education

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