



McFarland, Sara &lt;smcfarland@fifeschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: School Board Meeting**

1 message

---

**Alfano, Kevin** <kalfano@fifeschools.com>  
To: "McFarland, Sara" <smcfarland@fifeschools.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:46 AM

Attach to minutes for 11-30-20 meeting

**Kevin M Alfano**

Superintendent



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

**From:** Richard Giertz <rick@giertz.us>  
**Date:** Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 2:22 PM  
**Subject:** School Board Meeting  
**To:** <kyee@fifeschools.com>, <kalfano@fifeschools.com>

Kim and Kevin,

I hope this email finds you well. I have been informed that there may be discussion at a school board meeting tonight in regards to athletics and team sports for the district. I would like to give you some insight as a parent of 3 in the district and a coach of many years for wrestling and football for junior programs. My hope is that you consider doing small organized group activities for the young athletes during this covid pandemic that the parents are ok with them participating in. Or at least give people the option as long as they have adults willing and able to support such activities. Things can be done to mitigate risk if numbers are kept small, social distancing is used, with proper PPE and hygiene. My children are having a hard time staying in shape and/or staying in contact with teammates that they would regularly see and practice with as a team. This should be totally voluntary and others should not be punished if they don't participate. I know there is a lot of logistics behind it but I am sure a great number in the community is willing to help if given the opportunity.

If small organized activities are not practical maybe consider lifting some of the restrictions you may be able to control. As of right now all the fields (football, baseball, track) in the district are closed. I feel I have no say when my tax dollars are funding the school and programs. I support the fields being open which gives family's the choice to use them. Instead of spending money on signs that say keep out, spend money on signs that have rules for use to prevent the spread of covid based on CDC guidelines. I have one child who is a swimmer and is in a swim class. He does not have access to the Fife Pool without paying out of pocket. The issue is that the only times that are available at a fee are during school hours when he is required to be on his chromebook. Has anybody from the district tried to work with the city to work something out so we can get our athletes time in the pool? Other options are out there but they are not in our community and tend to cost more. The same child who is a swimmer is also a golfer. Pre covid he would have practices at North Shore and get tokens for the driving range. Now we have to pay for everything out of pocket. Has anybody reached out to the Golf course to see if there is anything that can be done to offset any costs?

I just want to be clear that I love this school district and know everything is being done to react appropriately with this pandemic going on. The health and safety of my children, your staff and community are also my #1 priority but I feel things can be a little different. There is no stay at home order and there are guidelines that we can follow to make this time easier on parents and the children which are most important. Thank you for taking a minute to read this. I just want to make sure my voice is heard since I was born and raised in this community and chose to raise my own children here. I appreciate all the work you have done thus far and know you will continue making our district better. I cannot wait for the kids to be able to get back in the classrooms and sports.



McFarland, Sara &lt;smcfarland@fifeschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: Public Comment**

1 message

---

**Alfano, Kevin** <kalfano@fifeschools.com>  
To: "McFarland, Sara" <smcfarland@fifeschools.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:46 AM

Attach to minutes for 11-30-20 meeting

**Kevin M Alfano**

Superintendent



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

From: **Ronnie Allen** <rjallenpk@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 12:57 PM

Subject: Public Comment

To: &lt;kyee@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;kalfano@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;bramirez@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;ikidd@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;cbjorkman@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;jmayhew@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;creidsimons@fifeschools.com&gt;, &lt;jnelson@fifeschools.com&gt;

I have learned that the decision to allow practices for our High School and Junior High student athletes to restart lies in the hands of the school board. To help understand why I think it's important for this to happen let me tell you a bit about myself. We moved to Milton in 1999 after returning from being in the army and bringing my wife-to-be with me from South Carolina. We fell in love with the small town/community feel of the Fife/Milton area. We have two children, one is a senior at FHS and our second is in 8th grade at Columbia Jr High. I started to volunteer coaching my Daughters soccer team for a couple years and then on to baseball and then football for my son. During this time I volunteered as a board member of our local Little League including 3 yrs as the President, I also joined the board of the Fife Junior Football Club. I have also spent time volunteering in my kids classrooms including numerous field trips and went with both of them to their 5th grade camps. During this time of volunteering it became more than just a job as coach. Some of these young men and women struggled with not having a father figure in their lives, I often helped provide a positive role model in their lives, I sometimes was even a shoulder to cry on. These young women and men still call me Coach Ronnie and get high fives and sometimes hugs from them, some of them are senior's this year! During this time decisions have been made in the name of safety and I don't think all decisions were wrong. But what I am experiencing with my kids and others that are close to me is just as scary as Covid-19. Many are battling with depression and keeping it bottled up, others are dealing with insomnia then sleeping during the day, others have given up and turned to drugs. They go from staring at a chrome book to staring at a TV or video game. My wife teaches a life skills class with in person students in a classroom I see no reason why this board and administration couldn't find a way to safely start activities in small groups outside. While I talk of sports please understand I believe strongly that other after school activities should be looked at too and are just as important, this includes Band/Choir and the Arts/drama. Kids often need the ability to communicate with their interest peers, laugh and smile with peers and mentors. Some of these youth find getting on the field is a safe way to get away from bad situations in the home, some of whom now have zero escape. Some of these kids work harder on their academics knowing that if they don't it could prevent them for their activities. While many select sports are still able to safely train not all kids in our community can afford the cost to play/train. I am 100% confident that with a little planning we could safely get our kids out in the fresh air and play soccer, baseball, track, marching band, or whatever. If we don't try, I fear the effects of this current plan could really lead to long term issues.

Thank you for your time,  
Ronnie Allen



McFarland, Sara &lt;smcfarland@fifeschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: Public Comment**

1 message

---

**Alfano, Kevin** <kalfano@fifeschools.com>  
To: "McFarland, Sara" <smcfarland@fifeschools.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:46 AM

Attach to minutes for 11-30-20 meeting

**Kevin M Alfano**

Superintendent



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

From: **Rick W** <rickw05@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Nov 29, 2020 at 4:57 PM

Subject: Public Comment

To: kalfano@fifeschools.com &lt;kalfano@fifeschools.com&gt;, kyee@fifeschools.com &lt;kyee@fifeschools.com&gt;

**Public Comment-Fife High School Athletics-11-29-20**

In light of the upcoming school board meeting I would like to express my concern in regards to the well- being of our Fife student athletes over the coming weeks and months. I am the parent of a Fife HS student.

I fully support getting our students back to some form of modified, small group practices with Covid safety protocols in place. I believe this pandemic has had a disproportionately negative effect on our students/student athletes and that we should take every opportunity to prioritize their emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

Policy decisions should be "human decisions" certainly informed by science, but not guided by statistics alone. Available information on Covid-19 transmission and risk should be interpreted through the values of our Fife community, students, parents and teachers not by outsiders.

Statistics don't tell us what our values are. At Fife I believe we hold our youth in the highest regard; as our greatest asset. I know that through athletics these students are challenged, molded, and shaped as human beings making them the best version of themselves. In many ways, our kids are missing out on their development as healthy adults with each week that passes.

I understand that the school board is in the best position to make these difficult decisions regarding return to modified practices. Obviously, there are many moving parts to take into account and I can't pretend to know all of these things.

I understand how difficult these times have been for decision makers like yourselves. From a parent's perspective however, I want be sure we keep the well-being of these student athletes at the forefront. Fife Schools and athletics are the heartbeat of our community and healthy well-rounded Fife graduates are its future.

Respectfully,

Rick Wahlgren



McFarland, Sara &lt;smcfarland@fifeschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: Public Comment**

1 message

---

**Alfano, Kevin** <kalfano@fifeschools.com>  
To: "McFarland, Sara" <smcfarland@fifeschools.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:46 AM

Attach to minutes for 11-30-20 meeting

**Kevin M Alfano**

Superintendent



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

From: **Don Robertson** <dkrob1@comcast.net>

Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 12:49 PM

Subject: Public Comment

To: kyee@fifeschools.com &lt;kyee@fifeschools.com&gt;, kalfano@fifeschools.com &lt;kalfano@fifeschools.com&gt;

My name is Don Robertson and I have two sons (a senior and a freshman) that participate in sports at FHS. I would like it stated that I endorse the idea of small, group practices for the kids when it is allowed under the evolving guidelines and timelines. To clarify, I am not advocating for a "wild west" approach of opening the gyms without guidance/structure or having full blown practices/games. However, I am advocating for small, group practices that allow the kids the opportunity to work out in a safe, responsible manner under the protocols established by the WIAA and the appropriate health department.

It is my understanding that at least two districts in Pierce County have taken this approach and were doing it with success before the latest round of restrictions. I understand that there are numerous factors to consider in doing this but believe it would be beneficial to both the mental and physical well-being of the student/athletes who participate.

Thank you.



McFarland, Sara &lt;smcfarland@fifeschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: School Sports**

1 message

---

**Alfano, Kevin** <kalfano@fifeschools.com>  
To: "McFarland, Sara" <smcfarland@fifeschools.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:45 AM

Attach to minutes for 11-30-20 meeting

**Kevin M Alfano**

Superintendent



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

From: **Keri Reyes** <kreyes@guildmortgage.net>

Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 9:47 AM

Subject: School Sports

To: kalfano@fifeschools.com &lt;kalfano@fifeschools.com&gt;, kyee@fifeschools.com &lt;kyee@fifeschools.com&gt;

Cc: shovel77@comcast.net &lt;shovel77@comcast.net&gt;

Good morning. I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my thoughts on the importance of school sports. I have heard, although not confirmed, that the decision to allow practices to restart lies in the hands of the school board. If that is the case I wanted to reach out to let you know that both my husband, Ruben Reyes, and I feel very strongly about the positive impact sports and extracurricular activities have on our kids. We are all watching our children struggle on a daily basis as they try to navigate through our current situation. The mental and physical aspect of having our kids involved in sports is so important and really helps mold them into the young men/women they are becoming, not to mention the mentorship these kids receive from the coaches that are so invested in the well-being of our young community. The benefit of allowing these kids to get back on a field with their coaches and friends/teammates is huge. I understand it would be different and we would have to start in small group practices that are held within state and local Covid-19 safety protocols, but that alone would benefit these kids in a big way. Thank you for your time and please reach out with any questions.

**Keri Reyes****Operations Manager**

4301 S. Pine St. Ste 160

Tacoma, WA 98409

Phone: (253) 830-2310



McFarland, Sara &lt;smcfarland@fifeschools.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: Public Comment**

1 message

---

**Alfano, Kevin** <kalfano@fifeschools.com>  
To: "McFarland, Sara" <smcfarland@fifeschools.com>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:45 AM

Attach to minutes for 11-30-20 meeting

**Kevin M Alfano**

Superintendent



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

From: **THERESE VAN DAMME** <tcpense@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 5:24 PM  
Subject: Public Comment  
To: <kjee@fifeschools.com>, <kalfano@fifeschools.com>

Good evening,

I am writing to voice my opinion on behalf of our Fife Athletes. I truly believe it would be greatly beneficial to restart sports in a safe, responsible manner following the published guidelines and state and local Covid-19 safety protocols. I feel that small group practices would help both the physical and mental well-being of our children.

We appreciate your support and thank you for your consideration,  
Therese and Jim Van Damme