

**November 13, 2022**

**Dear Soccer Families,**

Clark Fork Soccer Alliance is supporting and administering both spring and fall soccer in Sanders and Mineral Counties. We need some help to keep growing. In the fall, our “First Teams”, girls and boys high school age varsity-level teams (U19), are growing and have been very successful. This includes play against much larger schools such as Hellgate in Missoula and Columbia Falls’ junior varsity teams. These schools both frequently contend for the state title. Because we are a club team and not a Montana High School, we cannot play varsity school teams and have outgrown the JV teams. Many games have been less competitive than we would have liked. Also, our games against high schools are non-conference games for the schools. At times these can be a lower priority for schools, and rescheduling can be frequent and frustrating for parents and players. Also, the opposing players view the games as less important which can affect the morale of our players.

Our Soccer Board feels that moving soccer into the Plains High School as a school sport, cooperating with adjacent schools, can resolve this problem. We would like to begin fall of 2023 but this is not our decision. This change could also result in more sports opportunities for many school students because of easier transportation, and the important ability to represent their school through the sport they love, soccer. The additional opportunity for students to play another sport will also help more students be involved in sports in our communities because there is more choice. Also, recent legal changes allow homeschool students to play school sports, so our non-school students can continue in soccer also. Our club has prepared a detailed proposal and presented it to the Plains School Board and Administration and attended several recent meetings. Our analysis indicates that soccer could be administered by the school without more cost or trouble than most other existing sports. Our existing teams clearly show interested players are available to form teams. Our playing records show success

against the programs we are already playing. Fields and equipment are ready, and fundraising already occurs.

**We need your help!** This is the decision of the Plains School board and they have been reluctant to call for a vote among themselves on adopting soccer into the high school in the fall. Clark Fork Soccer families are needed to show the board there are many people in the community who want to make this shift because it is best for our students and youth.

### **Please Help Us With Soccer:**

- **Attend upcoming Plains School Board meetings until the issue is addressed and voting occurs. School board meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month, 7-9pm in the Plains School Library.** Wear soccer jerseys if you have them. Early in the meeting there is time for public comment. If you are comfortable, please comment respectfully. Our goal is for soccer to become an agenda item available for the board to openly discuss and vote on as soon as possible. You don't need to stay for the entire meeting (until 9pm), but if you leave early, please be respectful.
- **Ask someone you know to join you** at the school board meeting
- **Ask a school board member to support soccer** and explain why it's important to your student and you. Please be kind. School board members are Ron Warren, Erika Lawyer, Ellen Childress, Monica Weedeman, and Beau French.

If you have questions, please contact one of our soccer board members (Dave Wroblewski, Nikki Ericksen, Alan Hafner, Gena Ferlan, Beth

Meaden, Monica Weedeman, Rachel Nore, Jessica Tickner, or Melody Taylor). Nick Lawyer is also very knowledgeable about the issue.

Thank you for your help.

Dave Wrobleski, CFSA

Board President