

St. Paul Regional High School Athletic Parent Association  
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St. Paul, Alberta  
T0A 3A3  
780-645-4491

September 4, 2019

County of St. Paul  
5015 49 Ave,  
St. Paul, AB  
T0A 3A4

Dear Council,

St. Paul Regional High School Athletic Parent Association (SPRHS APA) is a group of parents who are working together to help St. Paul Regional's Athletic program raise finances to help maintain what the athletic program does on a yearly basis while not increasing fee's. Our goal is to raise money to purchase equipment, uniforms or large projects like a bus. This is a new organization that has society status and is currently working on different fundraisers to generate matching money for grants and apply for non-matching grants.

SPRHS APA will be applying for a CFEP grant for our new bus project. We are looking for support from our community members and we are asking the County of St. Paul to support our grant request.

Our project is to purchase a new D250 compliant bus, they cost around \$130,000.00. The school currently has two such buses that are the same age (2011) and we want to purchase a new one to offset the school having to purchase two new buses at one time when the life of the bus expires – the school division allows us to use the bus for 16 years. We have secured \$65,000.00 from another partner – this is our matching money. Our buses are used not only for athletic activities but also other extra-curricular (school clubs – Science Club, Outdoor Club and Travel Club) and curricular (class field trips like Skills, physics classes and post-secondary visits) field trips. These excursions are not only taken by St. Paul Regional High School but also by the Lions and Bengal football clubs, FG Miller Junior Senior High and New Mrynam School.

We are able to offer our students an amazing educational experience because we have invested in our transportation to keep the costs down instead of paying charter bus rates. We purchase our buses, we have our own drivers (teachers (5), educational assistants (4) and parents (3)) who donate their time and we charge our user groups a fee to rent the bus and they refuel it when they return from their trip. A day trip to Edmonton will cost us \$350 compared to \$800 or more from another bus company. When you add overnight trips, this cost doubles and triples with driver expenses like driving time, down time, accommodation and meals. As you might be aware, we travel a lot with our teams competing at our provincial championships – last year we had seven different teams advance to their provincial

championships. We have kept the cost low for our families by investing in our transportation, there is no other school in the North East let alone the province that does what we do with our students for the price that it costs. We need to maintain this or risk doing less with our students by cutting programs.

When we look at the demographics of our school, we have ~52% of students who are from the town, ~38% from the county and ~10% are Federal students.

The SPRHS APA has never asked or applied for any support from the County of St. Paul. We are actively involved in raising money for our association via community fundraisers, bingo's and applying for a casino. We look forward to your response to our request for our grant.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at St. Paul Regional High School.

Sincerely,

Hank Smid  
SPRHS APA School Liaison