

Statements by our parliamentary group spokesperson Nadine Schares

Point 4B: Tariff regulation concerning the price of a meal in the school canteen for municipal staff

Was this a request from the staff?

Was a survey conducted to determine how many people would be interested?

How far in advance must one place an order?

Is there cooperation with the SEA?

Are the meals prepared in the SEA kitchen?

Does this mean the same menu as the one listed in the SEA program?

A few questions in this regard:

Is the SEA menu prepared by Sodexo?

If I may make a remark: at a time when the issue of overweight among children is a major problem. Children are offered a piece of fruit for dessert. Why is it also necessary to offer a donut, sweetened fromage blanc, or vanilla pudding?

And the snacks consist of croissants, bread with jam, pretzel rolls, or muffins.

I believe there are many other ways to offer children a healthy snack or dessert than these sugary foods, which only satisfy hunger briefly and then cause them to slump again afterward.

Perhaps a dietitian could be consulted on this matter. It concerns the health of our children.

Point 5E: Agreement “My Municipality Lives Sport”

In autumn 2024, I attended an information meeting of Syvicol at which the Minister of Sports presented the sports coordinator. At that time, there were 8 sports coordinators for 11 municipalities.

In December 2024, I raised this project in the context of the budget. At that time, I was told that there was already a sports coordinator at the SEA and that the municipality and the commissions already organize and coordinate many activities.

This year, I raised the issue again during the budget discussions because it is truly important to me, and because we had included similar support in our election program. At the time, it sounded as though you would examine what might be possible, since you did not necessarily want to hire someone but rather assign this task to someone already working for the municipality.

You have now signed this agreement.

I welcome this change in attitude. It is not the first time that our ideas were initially rejected and presented as unnecessary, only to be adopted one or two years later.

However, I hope that the underlying concept has been properly understood. At the beginning, I had the impression that this idea was being ridiculed: “We don’t need that, we manage just fine as we are.”

It is not only about coordinating the associations, the SEA, and the municipality’s courses.

The charter is not called “My Municipality Lives Sport” without reason.

A cooperative network is to be established to analyze three important elements: the actors involved in physical and sporting activity, the range of activities offered, and the infrastructure.

An analysis should help to:

- harmonize the existing range of activities,
- further develop initiatives where necessary,
- guarantee citizens equal access to the available activities,
- enable the strategic development of infrastructure,
- strengthen the organizational capacities of the sports movement.

In my view, these are important aspects where one must think outside the box and not simply continue as before, but also be willing to embrace new approaches. To do so, several questions must be asked:

For whom are we currently offering sports activities? Which age group may be underserved? Why is it not possible, despite the commitment and support of parents, to include a gymnastics course for young children in the program?

Are the schedules appropriate? Could more activities perhaps be offered during lunchtime?

Not every course requires a sports hall. What other available spaces or outdoor alternatives exist?

Does our swimming pool really have to be reserved exclusively for schools every morning? Or could two lanes perhaps be opened to the public, that is, taxpayers, on one or two mornings?

What can be offered to teenagers and adults who are not inclined to join clubs but would nevertheless like to practice team sports?

These are just a few questions.

The overall concept of sport and physical activity goes much further. It could involve: childcare centers, schools, the SEA, the LASEP, the youth center, youth associations, sports clubs, associations in general, the Club at the Castle, the retirement home, and certainly many more.

I would welcome an open approach to this matter and a willingness to listen to knowledgeable people, rather than working solely behind closed doors.

It concerns recreational sport, health sport, competitive sport, as well as club sport, which could perhaps be more strongly supported by a sports coordinator.

Physical activity is important not only for physical health but also for mental health and social cohesion. Values such as respect, inclusion, and solidarity are strengthened.

However, to achieve a healthy and active society, sport and physical activity alone are often not enough; perhaps one could go a step further and also include concepts such as prevention, nutrition, and awareness campaigns. For me, these elements belong together when discussing sport and health. Differdange has an appealing concept in this regard.

The agreement states “recruit a full-time sports coordinator”: how do you intend to proceed?

It refers to the “necessary qualifications and skills.” What exactly is required? The person is also expected to complete a “support and training program” provided by the state.

Will someone now be hired?

Given everything that needs to be done, this is certainly not a task that can simply be added to the responsibilities of one of the existing employees!