

EXHIBIT 1

June 6, 2017

West Windsor-Plainsboro Community Voices

- I. Rising Senior Players & Family
- II. Current HSN Football Players & Family
- III. Former WWP Football Players/Cheerleaders (Alumni) & Family
- IV. Upcoming HS Parents
- V. WWP Hockey Booster Club – Recent Merge of HSN & HSS
- VI. Community Voice

I. Rising Senior Players & Family

KEVIN MURPHY

Former HSN Football Player

****Brother of Rising Senior Football Player – Brian Murphy****

HSN Class of 2015

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Today I am saddened and disappointed by the representatives of the NJSIAA and the West Jersey Football League regarding the decision of the fate of our football team. For those who don't know, the WW-P North football team has seen a huge reduction of players due to lack of interest and fear of concussions/other injuries. Where a normal New Jersey program typically has a minimum of 35-40 varsity players, North's program is down to just 22. A team of this size presents huge risks of injury with players having to play offense and defense against teams more than double the size. It would be incredibly unsafe to play with a team of this size, and playing a full 10 game schedule would be virtually impossible.

The coaches and WW-P administration have made tremendous efforts to find a solution, with the principal one being to merge the WW-P North and South teams. Both teams have struggled the past couple of years and a merge would create a competitive team of about 45 players, which would be considered a small-normal sized team. However, the NJSIAA has just ruled against this merge and denied an appeal of this decision. Their reasoning is that this merge would create some sort of "superteam" that would negatively impact other teams in the state. The reality is that there are dedicated juniors and seniors who just want the opportunity to play a high school football season. Our schools have also stated they are willing to forfeit playoff opportunities just to be able to play a season. With this denial, the North players will be forced to either transfer to another school to play (creating enormous financial, social and academic inconveniences) or be forced to quit football entirely.

I feel for the coaches, who have dedicated so much time and effort to the program and could potentially be out of coaching jobs. I feel for my brother (a rising senior who happens to be a very good player) who might lose his senior season of football because of a ridiculous state ruling. Finally, I feel for the North community who has supported the football program since its inception almost 20 years ago. When my class graduated 2 years ago, we had just had our winningest season in 5 years and it seemed that our program was turning a corner in terms of success. Now, the thought of not even having a football team at North is truly, inexplicably sad.

I encourage anyone who has had experience with North football or anyone who has been positively impacted by the North football program to contact the NJSIAA through their "contact us" tab at www.NJSIAA.org, attached below, with a message to reconsider their decision and the impact of not letting our high schoolers have a football season. Our coaches, parents and district officials have been fighting and will continue to fight, as will I.

Any support would go a long way and would be greatly appreciated. Let the kids play.

ROBIN ROME

****Parent of Rising Senior Football Player – Jack Rome****

West Windsor Parent

HSN Future Classes 2017 & 2020

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer

As the mother of a rising Senior and football player at WW-P North High School, I encourage our community to band together to save our football program, as well as the other sports that are in jeopardy at our respective schools.

In a move that cuts directly against its mission, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) voted against allowing WW-P North and WW-P South to merge their football teams. Our District Superintendent and Athletic Director presented clear, compelling reasons for the merger, including the dwindling numbers of football players from feeder programs and the high risk of injury for boys on the WW-P North and South High School teams. The NJSIAA's refusal to recognize the challenges faced by the WW-P District -- and instead punish the WW-P schools, players and students -- is disheartening to say the least. Certainly, the vote does not comport with the NJSIAA's stated mission to provide "fair and equitable opportunities" and a "safe and healthy playing environment."

If you have ever been to a WW-P Knights Varsity football game, you will see a group of boys who play their hearts out each Friday night. Many play both sides of the field, risking injury and sheer physical and emotional exhaustion. Throughout the year, they work in the weight room and study plays to make sure they are mentally and physically ready for the season.

The Board of Education recently approved a resolution allowing students at the middle and high school level to participate in extracurricular activities at another WW-P school if their particular school does not offer the activity. Other school sports, such as baseball, softball and lacrosse, will be facing the same dilemma in the coming years, and the Board resolution provides our children with an opportunity to participate in all WW-P has to offer on a district-wide level. I encourage you to voice your support by contacting the NJSIAA (njsiaa.org or 609-259-2776) and our legislators, who have been actively engaged on this issue.

Sincerely,
Robin Rome

MARY ELLEN MURPHY

****Parent of Rising Senior Football Player – Brian Murphy****

West Windsor Parent

HSN Classes 2015, 2017, 2020

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

To NJSIAA members:

I am writing with extreme urgency to formally ask you to overturn the decision you made recently, rejecting our appeal to merge the football programs of WWP NORTH and SOUTH.

By now you have seen the public outcry denouncing this decision, and read how this decision is affecting the players of the North football team, (as well as the many others involved with the program, i.e. Marching Band, Cheer, fans, etc...) You, as administrators, coaches, and teachers know how football shapes these boys. For years, they have worked, practiced and played hard, in season and out....Through this, they are bonded as brothers and teammates for life. They deserve better than the decision you made for them!! These VARSITY players especially, do not deserve to play a JV schedule, NOR do they deserve to play on a team that would have to forfeit most of their games due to safety concerns....How can this be ok with you? I am appealing to you -please OVERTURN your decision immediately...You are basing your decision on bylaws, but they are from a bygone era....You have the ability and the power to put together a

plan that would allow these boys what they so rightly deserve and to right this wrong!!!! Let the teams merge and LET THE BOYS PLAY!!!!

II. Current Football Players & Family

SANDY JOHNSON

Current HSN Booster Club President

****Parent of HSN Football Player Rising Sophomore – Luke Johnson (Returning Varsity Player)****

HSN Future Classes 2020 & 2022

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

At the high school level, I have been working very closely with Coach Jeff Reilly over the past two years to recruit freshmen and upperclassmen. We were successful last year in recruiting 22 freshmen for WWP HS North. Given our community's unique demographic, it is imperative to educate many of our Asian families about football, which may be foreign to them. Given that I am Chinese, I have been serving as an example by promoting football through my, my boys', and husband's dedication to the sport. Additionally, I have been calling parents and students to provide details about Coach Reilly's wonderful program and touting the benefits of a well-rounded student/athlete.

Is it an uphill battle? Yes, it is. But, saving football is worth it. Worth it for the...

- Players to feel they have a **community** behind them;
- Boys to grow together and play for a **team**;
- Players to have an athletic experience that is part of the **Whole Child initiative** we promote;
- Older players to take on a **mentor** role and support the younger players;
- Players to be **well-rounded athletes** who play more than one sport with football as their fall sport;
- **Cheerleaders and Marching Band** to come together with the players for a community event;
- Parents to see their child flourish in a **positive environment** that encourages teamwork;
- **Community** to come together in support of our HS teams/school...

I could go on and on, but I would like to be clear on some points:

- We are in strong support of combining the two high school football teams.
- **Not having a fair football solution for WWP High School North players is NOT an option.**
- The situation needs to be resolved post haste as the uncertain future is going to lead to possible transfers out of the district that will further reduce football numbers. The first transfers are likely to be made by those to whom football is most important (i.e., the best players) creating a snowball effect from which football in WWP cannot recover.
- We will NOT accept a solution that forces WWP students to transfer outside the district in order to be able to participate in football.
- I can speak for HSN Booster Clubs & WWP Pop Warner Wildcats in saying we will do what it takes to come to a favorable football solution.

It will take a community to make this work, and I appreciate your great effort in leading this initiative and finding the right solution.

NJSIAA needs to face the reality of that now or deal with the repercussions for the foreseeable future. Something we may never recover from. Do the right thing for the children and the WWP community and many other communities! NJSIAA, instead of pointing to the antiquated by-laws, POINT TO YOUR MISSION STATEMENT!!!

LUKE JOHNSON

****HSN Football Player - Rising Sophomore (Returning Varsity Player)****

Class of 2020

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Instead of a letter that most parents are writing, I wanted to show you what WWP High School Football means to me.

My Football Years: I have been playing since 7 years old, starting with WWP Pop Warner Wildcats.



My Favorite Sport is Football



At 5 years old, I would have my dad play full-field football on HSN's brand-new turf field (first to 70 points wins!). I live next to HSN and dreamed of the day I could play there "like the big kids".



What I love about Football:

I have played baseball, lacrosse, soccer, and wrestled. I currently also run track. And, football is still my favorite sport and the ultimate team sport!

I grew up in the WWP Wildcats Pop Warner program. I love having the opportunity to give back to the WWP Wildcats Pop Warner program with my teen coaching experience.

I loved when my dad coached my Pop Warner football teams.

I look forward to every August when we can start our official practices. Ending the summer with football practices is the best.

It is the one sport that my brother and I love the most and share every detail about our practices and games.



What WWP High School North (HSN) Football Means to Me:

Finally, my High School years are here! I can play on a High School team!

I love playing quarterback and leading our Freshman team.

I love playing defense on Varsity, as well.

I love the adrenaline of the game.

I love the High School pregame meals as a team.

I love the community atmosphere at the HS games. It brings everyone together...the marching band, the cheerleaders, the color guard, everyone at the concession stand, etc.

I am counting on you for a solution, so I can continue playing football without having to leave the school and friends that I love. I am asking for the opportunity to continue to play!

AUDRA MICKENS

Plainsboro Parent

****Parent of HSN Rising Junior – Jahmiq Johnson****

HSN Future Classes 2019, 2023

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer

When our family moved to Plainsboro my son was in the 2nd grade and daughter in preschool. We moved to the area because we knew that it had one of the best school districts in the state. We felt that this district would allow our children to thrive academically. We also wanted our children to meet some friends in the area. Without hesitation we immediately sought out a football/cheer program and signed them up. We were new to Plainsboro and had not yet formed any community ties and the WWP Wildcats Football & Cheer program introduced us to many wonderful families. My children have developed friendships throughout the years with children from the football and cheer programs that they continue to have today. Had it not been for the football and cheer programs we would not have met such great people. The football and cheer programs have served as the foundation to help build my children into well-rounded individuals.

Fast forward to the present, my past story is one of the main reasons why I and others in our community are so passionate about saving the WWP HSN Football Program. The children move up together through the Pop Warner program and into the HS School program. Together being the operative word. Football builds communities. Football builds character. Football builds strong work ethic. Football builds lifelong relationships and bonds that can never be broken between players, families, and communities. Most importantly the kids learn to work together as a team. There are many factors that contribute to how football develops a child into strong, unselfish, healthy, disciplined leaders! These are all very essential skills and attributes to possess as they move forward in life in any profession.

What is High School without football? Friday night lights, cheerleaders and crowds cheering, the band playing, the concession stand, tailgating, homecoming, etc. It is inconceivable to me as a parent of a child who's played his entire young life to think that he may not be able to play his Junior and Senior year on a HS football team. A game that he loves above all others, the game that has developed him into a fine young man; he will no longer be able to experience playing at the high school level. This can be discouraging and can be a major blow to some children who love the sport so much and look forward to playing each season. It is not fair to them when something can be done to make sure that there will be enough players to field teams at all levels by merging the HSN and HSS programs. Why make the children suffer? This is essentially what the NJSIAA is doing by not allowing these two teams to merge. It has been done before in our district for other programs, so why not football?

These young men deserve to have a viable football program. Juniors and Seniors especially deserve to play on a varsity team that can compete. For some of these boys, football is a way to belong to something that is much larger than themselves. Some boys have higher aspirations to play football at the next level or even the next. It encourages them to be better academically in order to be eligible to play the sport that they love so dearly. The decision made by NJSIAA forces families and children to make tough decisions on whether to stay and fight against the establishment or to leave and go to a school that already has a strong program, which can also challenge the children academically such as in the WWP School District. I'm sure that this is not the alternative that many who want to save HSN Football are seeking.

On Friday nights when those lights come on and the kids play before a crowd, it gives them a sense of pride and purpose. When they look in the stands to see their friends, family, student body, teachers, and others from around the community, I'm sure it makes them feel extraordinary. The decision that has been made by the NJSIAA will take all of this away from these players who look forward to Friday nights in the fall, going to practice to hang out with their boys, grabbing a bite to eat after practice, team dinners, competing, and just the overall camaraderie that comes along with playing the sport. Without football, some of these children's hopes and dreams will be shattered. The NJSIAA absolutely needs to find a solution this year in order for our children to get what they deserve. I'm not sure that the NJSIAA even understands the enormity of the situation and how it will affect the children and the community as a whole. The feeling right now is that the system is failing our children. We will keep fighting against the system and will never give up on our kids.

Sincerely,

Audra Mickens, Parent of Jahmiq Johnson (class of 2019), Jahlia Johnson (Class of 2023)
WWPHSN Booster Club Member
Concerned WWP Community Citizen
HUGE Football Fan

Many parent/players have already commented on the facts, timeline, and decisions made on behalf of the WWP North football so I will not reiterate.

Our great country has processes in place that allow for changes to laws, rules and regulations to keep current with change, because that is what happens over time – is CHANGE! Our Constitution has Amendments for that very reason. Often, the change makers are heralded as HEROES because they had the capacity to recognize problems and injustices and fight for corrective action when they see the need.

This is a great opportunity for NJSIAA and Commissioner Harrington to be the HEROES and do what is obviously the right thing for these boys. To do otherwise given the facts is a disservice to these boys when all they want to do is play a sport that has been a lifeblood to the core of who they are as student/athletes.

Now is the time to step up and apply the corrective lens and see the situation for what it is. Please put aside your rhetoric, bureaucracy, and outdated rules and go down in history as being the Heroes to our boys to allow for the merger that LET OUR BOYS PLAY FOOTBALL!

TOM HENDRY

Plainsboro Parent

****Parent of HSN Football Player Rising Junior – Bobby Hendry & Sophomore – Jack Hendry****

HSN Classes 2015, 2016, 2019 & 2020

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

The decisions by the NJSIAA and WJFL are completely inconsistent with their missions to promote interscholastic athletic competition in a safe environment to all who want to play. Like many parents who have commented, I have lived in the district for twenty years and have had a front row seat to growth in the student body but the decline in participation in many team sports that have contact. There has been a trend that is evident in the high school, middle school and youth

sports programs within our towns for years and it has come to a head in hockey and now in football. This trend is likely to continue to affect other team sports programs for years to come. Action must be taken now, as there are a number of boys who have opportunities to play football at the collegiate level and will be unfairly penalized by the decisions of a few individuals who continue to ignore the relevant facts of the situation within the West Windsor Plainsboro school district. Give the boys an opportunity to play varsity football, a sport that many have devoted their youth to get this chance. If the decision makers look at this with the view of the best interest of the boys then there is only one decision to make. Merge the programs and let the boys play.

CHRIS PARSONS

West Windsor Parent

****Parent of HSN Football Player – Cole Parsons****

HSN Future Classes 2020, 2025

The WWP High School North football program was a life-changing experience for my son Cole and our family. We moved to the West Windsor Plainsboro area in 2014 and Cole was very apprehensive about going to a new high school. He joined the football team, which was his first year playing football, and quickly gained an instant family. Coach Reilly created a team atmosphere where everyone looks out and cares for each other while also challenging these teens to set goals and follow through on their commitments. In addition to practice the team would spend time together off the field at barbeques, fundraising and team dinners. Cole gained so much confidence through the football program and built lifelong friendships. He started high school not at all intimidated going to a new school because he had such a strong bond with his teammates. Not having a football program would deprive athletes of this life changing school spirit and camaraderie.

The HSN football program brought our family together as we would attend the freshman games every week after school to cheer on Cole. We would have fun watching the highlight reels together afterwards. As a family we looked forward to rooting for the varsity team every Friday night. Not having a football program would deprive families of this fun all American tradition.

MAYA & NADEEM DADAN

West Windsor Parent

****Parent of Rising Sophomore Football Player – Aarsh Dadan****

HSN Future Classes 2020 & 2026

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Dear NJSIAA Committee Members,

We are technically one small town just divided by High School North (HSN) & High School South (HSS), and these are the same kids who played Pop Warner Wildcats (our township league) only to get split up when they get to high school.

My child, Aarsh Dadan has played football for 3 years before he played as a freshman at HSN. My child enjoys playing this sport & so does his brother. He is already wondering what he is going to do during fall 2017.

Football is more than just a sport for our family. It has taught my kids, sportsmanship, teamwork, being resilient, and made them stronger physically and mentally.

Please keep in mind that by disapproving the 2 schools merger, you are endangering all our kids out on the football field, as we just do not have sufficient players against other teams...and that will be on YOU!!! Just try to give my child a fair chance out on the field.

Regards,

Maya & Nadeem Dadan

AARSH DADAN

****HSN Football Player – Rising Sophomore****

HSN Class of 2020

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

For most of the games in 2016, just seeing the number of players on the other teams was so overwhelming. Even before the game began, I knew how it would end. But that doesn't mean that we gave up last year. Everyone & I would keep going because we just love playing this game & we always tried our best.

At the end of the season, I knew our losses were not because we weren't good at this game. We also like every other team worked hard throughout the year but in the end it all comes down to just a simple thought "I wish there were more kids on the team especially the ones who I played with during the Wildcats & now who are at HSS". JUST GIVE US A FAIR CHANCE AT THIS SPORT.

Let me play what I am good at, don't deprive me my right to play.

It gives me pride that I represent my school, don't take it away; don't take that feeling away from me.

You all must have also represented your schools growing up & today you all are cherishing those memories.



Aarsh Dadan as a Wildcat



Aarsh Dadan with his Freshman team as a Northern Knight

My brother, Aaryan Dadan as a Mitey Mite – Wildcat, #13 (love Beckham).

My present & his future of playing football for our high school is at stake.



III. Former Football Players & Family (Alumni)

JESS SABIN (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Football Player

Class of 2016

As a former player, I find it horrible that my teammates won't have the opportunity to continue the great experience that is WWP North Football. I have made great friends there and got to play a game I love and that I know the rising seniors love. The idea that if we combined schools we would become a powerhouse is crazy as both teams had records well below .500. We would even be giving up the opportunity to play in the playoffs, so it wouldn't impact the playoff standings at all.

ERIC AUSTIN (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Football Player

Class of 2016

As a former player, I'm absolutely hurt by the lack of opportunity for my remaining teammates to be able to play the game they've all grown up playing. North Football was the best experience that I had in high school yet it was also very frustrating. The recent decline in the participation in our program has affected us tremendously and it has only gotten worse. At times during the season, we had, at most, 16 guys out there for a varsity football practice, making it extremely difficult for our team to receive any kind of look, considering we couldn't even make a full offensive scout team. Despite our many struggles in numbers, a core group of players continued to play in our program despite being severely outnumbered in every game. The fact that people fear that this combination may create some sort of "powerhouse" team is not valid considering they've decided to forfeit all their playoff opportunities! This combination is for the benefit of my former teammates such as Jack Rome, Tyrell Williams, Jude Batoon, and Brian Murphy, who has high hopes to play college football, as well. I'm ashamed that he lacks the same opportunity to continue to excel in the game that we've played together since we were kids. North has struggled for the past few years with our participation and I'd hate for it to affect my teammates' opportunities.

MALIK THOMPSON (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Football Player

Class of 2016

Truly sad to see this happening. Especially because I am a recent graduate of the 2016 class. A class that worked very hard to turn the program around, along with the tremendous coaching staff. Through this program, I was given the ability to play at the next level on scholarship. Something that would not have been made possible if not for the Northern Knights Football Program. Due to this decision, it is now hindering those behind me with the same aspirations of playing at the next level, at this point just playing football at all. It can be very easy to sit and make decisions about programs that you have no connection to. But I can assure that the North coaching works harder at their job than anyone in the state. In all, this decision is not only affecting players in a detrimental way, but putting the coaching staff out of a job they truly love.

STEVE (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Football Player

As a former player and recent graduate, North Football created an awesome environment where I grew as an athlete and more importantly a person. My three years involved, I learned the importance of commitment, trust, brotherhood,

and hard work that you can't find anywhere else. The team and its coaches created a place of comfort and somewhere to get away and play the sport that is loved across the area and country. Taking away North Football will ultimately take away these opportunities from potential and current players. Football created a community place to hang out on Friday nights. North Football was the lifeline for a community to come together and support a common cause. If you take away the sport, you take away this feeling of pride and passion for community. Please, keep North Football. This decision will not only affect players, coaches, and faculty, but the whole community, in general.

LOGAN (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Football Player

As a recent graduate of WW-P North and a former member of the football team, I must say that it is very disappointing that there will not be a football program in West Windsor. Football has really helped me become a better overall human being, it has given me great memories, and most importantly it helped to create a positive vibe for both schools in West Windsor (which also helped me and the schools academically). Along with hundreds of alumni, I am truly thankful for what WWP Football has done for me. Without it, I don't know how I would have turned out to be. Now that it can be taken away, I really feel for the kids who were in the same position I was five years ago. Kids who really want to play football, who really want to get the lifelong experiences, kids who want camaraderie, and kids who want to build better human beings within themselves. Those kids now either have to go elsewhere to play (which is a huge hassle) or they can't play at all. There are still enough of those types of kids at both the North and South campuses to create a normal football team, not some 'superteam' that would breeze through everyone in the conference. Both schools do not have that caliber of football players anymore, so combining them would only be fair. And, as I mentioned earlier, football really helps both schools academically because of the positive environment it creates. So I am begging whoever to please reconsider their decision and have the two schools merge football teams. You will improve a lot of students in many different ways if you just allow the merge and let the students compete. Thank you.

JEREMY LOCKWOOD (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Football Player

Class of 2017

As a former player and a player in college, I feel hurt knowing my teammates won't be able to play next year, especially if they are trying to play in college. Transferring is not an option because of the 30-day suspension from sports if they don't change their address but if they do that could be trouble financially for the parents. College coaches won't be able to watch the kids play and recruit who they need on their team if the kids can't play. I'm just sick of all of this. I just want the students to have fun and play the sport they love.

RUSS JOHNSON

West Windsor Parent

West Windsor Alumnus Football Player

HSS Future Classes 2020 & 2022

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Failure to combine north/south football will result in the loss of many other high school sports

I am a 1988 graduate of West Windsor Plainsboro High School and played Pirate football. The West Windsor / Plainsboro communities were much smaller back then and WWP HS was actually 7th - 12th grades. Despite our size, we were very successful in many sports as evidenced by the banners from the 1987-1988 school year that hang in the old gym at HS South. I have fond memories of the success that WWPHS had across all sports during my high school years.

I currently have a daughter at South and a son at Grover, and both play a different sport during each of the fall, winter and spring seasons. My son has been playing Wildcat football since he was in kindergarten and the current plan is that

he'll attend HS South in 1 year. I have been taking both my kids to South football games since they were babies and hope that they'll be able to do the same for their kids one day.

The potential pool of football players in West Windsor/Plainsboro has diminished over the years for many reasons and the school district must adapt to ensure the survival of the football program in order to support our student athletes. High school football is much more than a sport. It teaches discipline, teamwork and promotes school spirit. High school football is integral to the high school experience, and not just for the students that are playing on the field. There is no other sport that brings the school together like a Friday night football game.

Sadly, both the North and South programs have struggled in recent years as you can see by their records below:

North: 2013 (3 wins, 7 losses); 2014 (5 wins, 5 losses); 2015 (5 wins, 5 losses); 2016 (3 wins, 7 losses)

South: 2013 (3 wins, 7 losses); 2014 (1 win, 9 losses); 2015 (0 wins, 10 losses); 2016 (2 wins, 8 losses)

Yet despite these records, there remains a core, albeit shrinking, group of boys committed to the sport. And they have the right to continue to play football.

Combining the two football programs will not create a powerhouse team and will only facilitate the survival of the sport in WWP. Failure to combine the two teams for the upcoming season results in the immediate loss of the North varsity program and I predict the South program will meet a similar fate within 2 seasons. And the impact will not stop there.

As you know, many football players play other sports during different seasons: basketball, wrestling and indoor track in the winter, and baseball, lacrosse, and track in the spring. Many of these football players also have brothers and sisters that are athletes. The loss of football puts much at risk.

If there is no option to play football in WWP, players (and their siblings) who want to play football will seek alternatives via other school districts or one of the many local private schools that are available. In short, you will lose entire families of student athletes and it will become increasingly difficult to support other sports teams. Notre Dame, Hun, PDS and Peddie will welcome our student athletes with open arms.

Not combining north/south football is unacceptable and the decision needs to be reversed. Unfortunately if the decision stands, it is the beginning of the end for many WWP sports as our student athletes leave town.

MIKE MEDUSKI

West Windsor Parent

Retired US Army Judge Advocate Officer

Parent of Former HSN Football Player

HSN – Students Graduated

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

NJSIAA:

I have read with dismay your decision to not allow the combination of WWP North and South HS Football, because it would create a super-team. Your decision is wrong, you have not avoided the creation of a super-team, you have killed high school football in the WWP school district. I have lived in West Windsor since 1998, am a retired US Army Judge Advocate Officer, and spent many years during my son's playing career heavily involved in WWP Pop Warner football as a conference delegate, executive board member and football commissioner, and during high school filming varsity game tape for three years for Coach Casamento. Your decision ignores the long developing population trends in WWP and its impact on football participation. Your decision is disservice to the players, parents, cheer squads, marching bands, coaching staffs, and citizens of the WWP school district. Your decision is rooted in the 20th century, and does not reflect 21st century realities, which is: despite the overall size of WWP HS North and South, the student population mix does not support football participation equal to even a group 1 school. I can personally attest to that from my experience

filming preseason scrimmages against group 1 schools who, even 6 and seven years ago, would put a team on the field at least double in size to the WWP North teams, and WWP HS football participation has deteriorated dramatically since then. As an Army officer one learns a lot about leadership. Your decision to not allow the combination of WWP North and South football is an abject failure of leadership by NJSIAA and the West Jersey Football League.

CJ MARKISZ

Former HSN Football Player

Class of 2016

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Really a shame. As a collegiate athlete that was able to take advantage of the prestigious academic environment of the WWP school district and use football to help me go to the college of my dreams, I am deeply saddened by the NJSIAA's decision and hope they reconsider. Let the younger guys have the opportunities I had and, more importantly, let them play the great game of football. High school football is the experience of a lifetime that only has a four year time frame for everyone. Don't penalize young men who are willing to put in so much time and effort for something they have no control over.

JOHN, ADRIENNE, CJ, & JACKIE MARKISZ

Former HSN Football Player

West Windsor Parent

HSN Classes 2016 & 2017

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

What does high school football mean to our family?

Our son, CJ Markisz, has played football since 6th grade. After playing soccer for a number of years, CJ wanted to try playing football for the Wildcats. When CJ was an eighth grader, the Wildcats couldn't field a team. So several towns (West Windsor, Hightstown, Millstone, East Windsor and Cranbury) combined players to all play for the Hightstown Rams. The football experience was great for him from the very beginning. CJ has enjoyed playing the game, meeting new kids and having wonderful coaches through the years.

CJ continued to play football at WWP. The football team once again struggled to field a team due to low student turnout. Fortunately, CJ had sufficient amount of players to field teams during his four years at WWP. WWP football provided CJ a brotherhood of teammates and the constructive coaching/guidance from Coach Reilly, Stubbs, Torralba, and Petrone. Playing football at WWP was an outstanding experience for CJ. CJ and his teammates graduated from WWP and are now college students at: John Hopkins, Bowdoin, Stevens, Syracuse, TCNJ, Seton Hall, Marist and Rutgers.

Our family also enjoyed our experience with WWP football. Our family was involved with WWP's football program. My wife, Adrienne, helped coordinate team meals and snacks. I enjoyed taking photo's during all of the games for parents to download and share. My daughter was a regular at the home games, cheering for the team with her friends.

WWP football is much more than just high school football. WWP Football provides all of the students and parents an opportunity to be involved in the high school experience. In addition, the WWP cheerleaders practice and cheer for the varsity football games. Also, both the band and flag teams have the opportunity to perform for the fans. Moreover, the entire student body has a constructive family friendly activity to participate in during the fall.

We hope future WWPN and WWPS students have the same opportunity as we had playing/participating in high school football as our family has had.

Please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

John, Adrienne, CJ and Jackie Markisz

TIMOTHY THOMPSON

Plainsboro Parent

Parent of Former & Upcoming HSN Football Player

HSN Classes 2016 & 2022

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Dear NJSIAA,

My name Timothy Thompson, and I am a proud parent and supporter of West Windsor Plainsboro football programs. It is upsetting to hear about the fate of WWP North football program. It's even more disconcerting because I moved to this area for the quality education that West Windsor Plainsboro school systems provide. Unknowingly, West Windsor Plainsboro North football program changed my entire family's lives. My son, Malik Thompson, Class of 2016, was afforded scholarship opportunities as a direct result of WWPN Northern Knights football program. Malik's younger brother, Makhi, 7th grade CMS student, has already made plans on following in his big brother's footsteps. Shaking my head! What is a concerned parent to do?

JACQUELINE KNOX

West Windsor Parent

Parent of Former HSN Football Player

HSN Classes 2015, 2016, 2020

My son, Liam Knox (Class of 2015) played football at HSN for 2 years. He had never played before and when I asked him (with some skepticism) "Why?," he said, "I've had a lot of opportunities to compete individually and that's been great, but I want to know what it's like to part of a high school team." Somewhere in him, he knew he was missing out on an important experience that he may never have again. My husband and I didn't hesitate to support him. For those 2 years, he wasn't the best player, but he worked hard to earn his place, and gave it his all and then some every time he got onto the field. He earned the respect of his peers, and, more importantly, learned about his own capacity to contribute to something bigger than himself, and no one can take that away from him....ever. WWP football is so much more than just a game, and we as a community of learners, need to come together and start to recognize, value and advocate for rigorous, high quality team sports as an integral part of educating the whole child during the formative high school years, as much as we do academics.

ANTHONY ZEOLI (Comment on NJ.com article)

Former HSN Booster Club President

I am the former Booster Club President for WWP Northern Knight Football team. I put two sons through this program. Not only did this program get my sons in great shape, it really helped both of them build character and discipline. That being said, we need to keep both of these great programs alive. If that mean merging them for both safety and competitive sake that that is what should happen. The NJSIAA needs to come of age. It is no longer valid to just look at school attendance numbers for grouping or merging. The concerns about becoming a super team are overblown and

outdated. For nearly the last 10 years, the combined teams of both North and South together were smaller than many of the single teams these schools had to face. Some teams such as the shore teams frequently had 80+ players while WWP schools had teams of kids playing both ways with barely 30 players on the side line. This isn't a safe or competitive situation in the least. It was only recently that North actually stopped playing ND whose teams frequently were nearly the length of the field. A school even by itself could easily and frequently do produce super teams. The fear that this will happen at North or South based on the numbers is just not true. The combined teams could be monitored and if they exceeded the player count across the top teams in the conference then there could be player limitation enforced. This is just one idea, but the NJSIAA should not penalize players who are giving it their all on the grid iron just because they fear moving into the future and coming up with practical solutions for the players. Let's work out the rust out of the old system and be creative. Let's bring NJ Athletics into the modern age.

JEFF MCFARLAN

West Windsor Alumnus Football Player

WWP HS – Class of 1991

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

Dear NJSIAA League and Conference Committee,

The West Windsor Plainsboro North HS football program needs to be saved! The only safe and practical way to do this is to merge with the South High School program.

My name is Jeff Macfarlan and I am a class of 1991 WWP High School South Football Program Alumnus. I started playing football at 9 years old in the West Windsor Wildcat Pop Warner program and continued to play all through my high school years. Football at WWPHS taught me so much; leadership, confidence, teamwork, dedication, loyalty, resiliency, toughness, heart and most of all, my teammates and coaches were family. These essential life skills and principles have carried me through life and helped me to become where I am personally and professionally. The football players at WWP North, need to have this same opportunity that I and my teammates had of playing football in High School! You cannot replace how this experience prepares you for your future.

Please reconsider and overturn this ruling to allow these two football programs to play together. This is so important for these kid's future!

Thank you for listening!

Sincerely,

Jeff Macfarlan

Ponte Vedra, FL

(904) 327-2317

SUZANNE D'AMICO-SHARP

Plainsboro Parent

Parent of Former WWP HSN Cheerleader

I'm a parent of a former WWP North Cheerleader, I sat in the stands for four plus years at Freshman, JV and Varsity games. Over those years, we had a team that made playoffs twice and teams that only squeaked out a win or two. No matter the year, the experience of seeing high school students from diverse social groups come together to hearing the singing of the National Anthem, to cheer on the Color Guard, the Marching Band, the team, and even the Cheerleaders, was something wonderful to be a part of. It was an aspect of my daughter's high school career that connect us to the larger community.

We got a chance to support each year's Seniors by patronizing the Concession stand. We got to see students getting the opportunity to lead, to follow, to mentor, to be a part of a team, to succeed, to fight through adversity – and mostly to do it all with grace and spirit. I'd say it was those years we struggled where the best lessons were learned. My daughter reflected on the life lessons she experienced as a North Cheerleader as the basis for her main college application essay.

Of course all of these things can be said about most any of the extracurricular activities at North. But what distinguishes Football is how many other activities are pulled together to participate and the diversity of the students drawn to spectate.

I hope the NJSIAA ultimately decides to support Football (North and South) for WWP. It meant (and still means) a lot to our family.

Sincerely,
Suzanne D'Amico-Sharp

IV. Upcoming & Current HS Parents

TERRI RICE
West Windsor Parent
HSN Future Classes 2023, 2025, 2029
WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer – Board Member

My three children have been a part of the WWP Wildcats, our youth football program, for the past five years and will attend High School North beginning in two years. My oldest son loves football and speaks almost daily about when he will be able to play at North and hopefully at college after that. He loves everything about the game, and as his parents it is impossible not to share this love with him. Through football, my kids have formed friendships with people from many different backgrounds and gained an understanding of how each one of those people contribute to their team. They have learned what it means to be committed and hardworking, and to be confident individuals and contributors themselves both to their teams as a whole and to other members of their Wildcat family, especially those going through hard times.

One of my favorite parts of the season is when the Wildcats join our two high schools (North and South) at their Friday night game (pictured below). The younger kids are invited to cheer on the sidelines next to the big kids, and the younger football players are announced onto the field at half time, running out with such excitement and pride for the fact that they will one day get to play on that field too. They get to be a part of something so much bigger that night, with the older kids whom they look up to. These days, people have become more and more busy in their daily lives, with individual tasks, goals and accomplishments at stake. But on this night, so many of us take the time to gather together in one place, to cheer together for the high school team under the lights and share our pride in our town with our children and our friends. To me, this is the definition of what football means to our community. It is my hope that the NJSIAA will reconsider their decision and allow our children the chance to continue to be a part of this bigger community for many years to come.



LIBBY VINSON

West Windsor Parent & Alumna

HSN – 2021, 2023, 2026

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football – Board Member

NJSIAA:

The NJSIAA's failure to put the best interest of student athletes in West Windsor-Plainsboro ahead of competition is nothing short of unacceptable. Denying WWP's request to merge its two high school football programs for safety reasons, especially considering the District set forth stipulations to forfeit all power points and participation in postseason play, flies in the face of NJSIAA's mission to:

A safe and healthy playing environment that supports academic achievement, good citizenship and fair and equitable opportunities.

The time for NJSIAA to revisit its antiquated rules and realign them to truly support the mission of the organization is long overdue. Merging the WWP football programs has nothing to do with building a powerhouse. And at the core, I believe the NJSIAA knows this. The organization is simply taking the easier path, adhering to irrelevant rules rather than agreeing to a reasonable solution that will ensure a safe and viable football program in the WWP District. The real tragedy in all this is the shortsighted path the NJSIAA has chosen to take is leaving our football players with nowhere to go.

ANDREW WILHELM

West Windsor Parent

HSN Future Classes 2022, 2023, 2026

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer – Football Commissioner

As the Football Commissioner for WWP Wildcats Football and Cheer, I see the positive impact that organized team sports has on our young men and women every year. I see how they develop drive, perseverance, respect for others, and teamwork. I have watched children growing into young adults prepared to deal with adversity and willing to work hard to achieve success.

It is a sad state of things when the adults responsible for continuing to nurture these children refuse to take any action to help us save our high school football team for fear of "creating a powerhouse." NJSIAA should be ashamed and embarrassed by their lack of action to support the values they claim to protect.

At the same time, I continue to encourage our high school students to put themselves out there and become involved in sports. While academics needs to remain the primary focus of our young students, please do not let the opportunity to learn the real hard lessons that sports can teach you. Colleges and Universities look for student athletes because they know there is more to success than straight A's, and what you learn on the field is as important as what you learn in a desk. Try a sport, something new or something you've always wanted to try, put yourself out there and take a risk. I promise the rewards will be great.

#PLAYNORTHFOOTBALL

#SAVENORTHFOOTBALL

#WWPWILDCATSFAMILY

ROBYN MITCHELL

West Windsor Parent

HSN Future Classes 2018 & 2021

I have thought over and over about what I can say, but no matter what I have started to write, it has never seemed sufficient to express the myriad of emotions I am feeling over this. The fact that we are facing the elimination of football at North is just incomprehensible to me. Whenever I have told people who don't live in WWP about the number of students in our 2 high schools but the low numbers we have had in football over the last few years, no one can understand it.

Unless you live in the largely international community like we do, it is hard to understand how that can be. But then, after I explain the demographics of our town, most people ask me why don't they just combine the two high school football teams? That is the logical thing to do. It simply defies logic that we can live in the same town and our kids can go to high schools in the same school district, but yet we are being prohibited from doing the logical thing to keep football alive in WWP.

I can't sufficiently express the loss that the kids will feel if you take their football team away from them. Whether the kids play football, are cheerleaders, play in the band, or simply have fun in the Blue Hole, I can't sufficiently express how seriously it will take away from our kids' high school experience. I want them to have good memories of high school, of high school spirit, and of high school pride.

I can't even fathom going to a high school where there is no football. It just doesn't seem American! And the fact that my daughter, who will be a freshman next year, will be going to a high school without football.... the fact that my son will potentially have a Senior year without football and the blue hole and homecoming and everything else that goes along with football ... makes me sad beyond belief.

Thank you for fighting to keep football alive at North!

ERICA BELL

West Windsor Parent

HSN Future Classes 2021, 2023, 2027

I am a parent in the WW-P district with a rising Freshman at High School North. My son does not play football but his friends play football, are cheerleaders and band members looking forward to joining the North Marching Band. Even for those kids who are not directly involved in the football program, there is a direct social benefit from their school having a football program. Our students will miss out on the community spirit of coming together for games. Hundreds of kids will not have those high school memories of getting together with their friends and sitting together on the bleachers to cheer for their friends.

As I have read about the current North football players, it really breaks my heart for these kids who love the game and have devoted so much of their lives playing and looking forward to playing for their high school team only to have that opportunity taken away from them. How can the NJSIAA justify destroying the dreams of these kids when our district has proposed such a reasonable solution of combining with High School South and agreeing to forgo the championships and titles, proving we are not trying to be a "powerhouse." It is heartbreaking.

I sincerely hope the NJSIAA will reconsider their decision and think about the lives they are affecting.

Sincerely,
Erica Bell

SUSAN KOCHER

Plainsboro Parent

HSN Front Office

HSN – 2015, 2017, 2020, 2022

Football is a team sport not only involving the players but the coaches, cheerleaders, marching band, fans, school and the whole community. It's Friday night games under the lights. It's people coming out to support players whether they know them or not. It's kids bonding over a sport they love. That is what football means to me.

ANDREA KEMPLER

West Windsor Parent

West Windsor Teacher

HSN Future Classes 2022, 2025

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football

We have been members of the WWP Wildcat community for the past 4 years. My boys played flag and tackle for the Wildcats. As a mother, teacher, and member of the community I watched how playing football gives all the boys physical and emotional strength and also a sense of belonging to our community, West Windsor and Plainsboro. On the field the boys from different towns and backgrounds supported one another, became teammates and also friends back at school. These boys must have the opportunity to continue playing football for WWP North and South high schools. Please do not take this away from them, let the boys play football!!!

LAURA HOROSZEWSKI

Former West Windsor Parent

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer – Board Member

WWP football has brought focus and friendship for many young men in the community. It has challenged them and helped them to learn powerful life lessons and provided many with unique college opportunities. While we as a family have seen many benefits from raising our boys in West Windsor's extremely international environment, we also recognize that the district's diversity has created some unique challenges. One of those is that many district families lack a tradition of playing "American" football, which has impacted participation in the sport district-wide. Despite low numbers, love of the sport and the community has driven boys on the team to continue - we should make sure that they are able to do this in a safe way.

JIM SBORDONE

Plainsboro Grandparent

HSN Future Classes 2020 & 2022

It would be a travesty to deprive these young energetic/loyal/devoted/hardworking student athletes a chance to play a sport they love & have played since they could walk. Stop the political talk & do what is right for these kids. Let them play!!!!!!

V. WWP Hockey Booster Club – Recent Merger of HSN & HSS

DAWN FLISSAR

Plainsboro Parent

WWP Hockey Booster Club – Co-President (1st Year of Combined Team)

HSN Future Classes 2020 & 2022

This email is in reference to West Windsor Plainsboro North's Football Team. I currently have a freshman at the school who is a part of the High School Hockey team (which has recently merged with WWP South's hockey team). I feel very fortunate that our school district was able to get the teams to merge so that the students could continue to play a sport they love. As one of the co-presidents of the booster club I can say that the merger was a success. The coaches, players and parents all worked to make it a great year. Without this merger the future of ice hockey in our district was in danger of becoming obsolete due to the low number of students signing up. With the merger we were only able to field a Varsity team with a few extra players on a practice JV team. Low numbers of students signing up for sports are becoming a bigger problem each year in our district in some sports. I am writing this email to ask that you reconsider merging the two school football teams so that the students can continue to play football. Sports are an integral part of schools and the students. Not only for the players but for everyone. Having No football team will affect other areas as well, marching band, cheerleaders, school spirit. We all have memories at some point of joining our friends at a game or pep rally, homecoming, etc. and just cheering on our schools and being proud to wear your schools colors. Please allow our kids and the future students of North to have this opportunity as well. Our upcoming seniors (as well as lower classmen

and coaches) have put a lot hard work and dedication to our football team. Let's give them the opportunity to continue this work. Sports and Clubs offer our children many different ways to grow and learn leading to them becoming successful adults we can be proud of. Please reconsider this request. Our children are our #1 priority. Thank You.

CHRISTOPHER RYAN

West Windsor Parent

HSN Future Classes 2019, 2022, 2024

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer – Coach

Please read. This is very important to the young men at North who make incredible sacrifices to prepare themselves to play what is in my view the most demanding team sport of all. We see them on the field but what isn't seen is the endless hours in the weight room, studying schemes, opponents and dozens of complex plays. All while maintaining a high level of academic performance at one of the States most demanding high schools. The sacrifice began when they were young kids dreaming of wearing North blue as they developed their skills in Pop Warner. Imagine being a player who is going to be deprived of their senior season, a freshman or sophomore who worked tirelessly to prepare to move up and all the players in between. You don't have to play to love the excitement of high school football. It effects the morale of the entire school and all of its students. It effects the musicians, cheer squad and color guard and everyone who attends. All of those students will feel it if next year's varsity season is lost. Please spread the word.

MITOS BESKE

West Windsor Parent

HSN Classes 2016, 2018, 2024

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football – Board Member

To the Commissioner of Education,

I am a parent of 3 children that are in attendance or have attended the West Windsor Plainsboro School District - one currently a graduate of WWPHSN, a current junior at WWPHSN, and a 5th grader at Village School. I moved to Princeton Junction specifically for the academic excellence that the district values and clearly demonstrates. In recent years, I have been troubled by the over emphasis of academic achievement at the cost and detriment to the social and mental health of our children. It was a welcome relief and very courageous for the district superintendent, Dr. David Aderhold to attack the problem with openness and candor. I embrace and endorse the whole child philosophy. Most of all, I am pleased to have a superintendent that cares about his community and more importantly, the students that we put in his care on a daily basis.

Recently, the participation of the students in athletic programs within the district has declined steadily due to a number of factors that face not only our district but which is endemic nationally. While I recognize that the district needs to respond in a manner that promotes participation within its population, clearly the demographic situation cannot be ignored. As a community we need to encourage our children to safely participate in activities that strengthen and challenge not just our minds but our bodies as well. I know that as a district, Dr. Aderhold and others are addressing the issue with the NJSIAA.

More pressing is the issue of 4 seniors at WWPHSN that may not have the opportunity to safely play football due to the school's inability to field a varsity team. To Dr. Aderhold's credit, he has done everything in his power to forge a resolution that follows the process outlined by the NJSIAA. Unfortunately, these efforts have been met with unsatisfactory results where NJSIAA members believe that loopholes will be created to make the landscape less competitive in the future. This is contrary to their mission statement that outlines providing an opportunity for all students to have the opportunity to safely participate in athletics. Clearly the intention here is not to create a competitive power house football team but to allow these seniors to play football and complete their high school career at WWPHSN.

The options available for these students are unacceptable and I sincerely hope that your office can consider providing them with an emergent relief provision.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mitos Beske

COURTNEY BROWNDORF
West Windsor Parent
HSN Classes 2016 & 2020

Our family is writing in support of HSN football as the ultimate Fans in the Stands. We know many kids who play football and look forward to heading to the game on Friday nights. My kids are cheering from the Blue Hole and my husband and I are sitting with friends watching our fabulous student athletes play their hearts out. We also get to see the kids in the band perform and watch the cheerleaders get the crowd going. It is a school event, a community event that brings us all together. Think of it like a House of Cards, many cards precariously balanced together. If football is eliminated, other important school activities will come tumbling down as well. Our circumstances are the exception, not the norm. As such, they demand to be reevaluated. We can work harder to save this integral program. #SAVENORTHFOOTBALL

SANDRA FAIVRE
West Windsor Parent
PTSA President of HSN
HSN Classes 2020 & 2022
WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football & Cheer

As a 13 year resident of West Windsor, it saddens me to think that our High School North Football team is in jeopardy. Football has played an important role in our community for as long as we've lived here. Our son has participated in the Wildcats Football Program for a few years and while he's not in High School yet I am so concerned that he may not even have the opportunity to play. The same applies for all students in our district. Friday night football games have provided our children with safe and fun activities to attend. We parents have the peace of mind knowing where our children are. I can't help but question what our teens are going to do on Friday nights! Football is an all American sport and not to have our community take part in it is devastating. Please reconsider and allow us to join forces with our sister school to continue this long lived tradition.

Sincerely,
Sandra Faivre
PTSA President of High School North and concerned parent / resident.

GAYLE REDAVID
West Windsor Parent
Parent of Former HSN Cheerleader
HSN Classes 2016 & 2020
WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Cheer

My daughter cheered for WWPHSN from 2012-2015. During those years my family went to watch the games every weekend. It was a way to be a part of the community and get together with our WWP friends. Homecoming and the North-South game were always events that we looked forward. It's very sad to think that my son, a rising sophomore,

won't be able to enjoy the same wholesome high school events that his sister did. Please reconsider and let the kids play.

V. Community Voice

NANCY GARTENBERG

Montgomery Township's Superintendent

On Twitter

HSN & HSS football should be able to play together. Commissioner and NJSIAA must do the right thing. #forthekids

Montgomery supports HSN & HSS Football! Keep kids involved & keep kids in their home school!

There is only one answer here – combine HSS & HSN football. It's not about advantage. #rightthing4kids

HEMANT MARATHE

West Windsor Township Council Member

The argument that combining the program would create a powerhouse is silly. The district is willing to give up on all post season opportunities and give up points to the other team for every game as if it was forfeited. It is as close to pure "playing for the sake of the game" as you can get. NJSIAA should be encouraging kids to participate in sports and encouraging such participation even more.

Many years from now these kids will not remember their grades or classes they took but the time they spent on the sports teams and the lifelong friendships they made and lessons they learned. Why would NJSIAA want to take it away from the kids?

An adult with a common sense needs to look at the situation as it truly exists and not simply point to a rule book that doesn't apply any more. I hope the commissioner is the "adult" who would intervene and let the kids play.

It's a shame that the district has to waste time and money fighting this decision.

KATHY (Comment from NJ.com article)

The safety of the players should be more important than archaic rules. Let's put the kids first and let them combine the teams!

LABASTARDA (Comment from NJ.com article)

All these kids want is to play. They are willing to forgo their post-season chances, their uniforms (they will be combined), and anything else they might get. They just want to play. There are so many stories of kids not doing the right thing. These students are willing to give up winning championships to just play football. The demographics of WWP are as such that it is not an important sport. They will not be a powerhouse, please just let them play football.

SKINNER (Comment from NJ.com article)

C'mon Commissioner Harrington this is your chance to do the right thing and live up to the oath you took. Do the right thing and look at each situation in a case by case basis, not just follow the normal bureaucracy. They just want to play ball. The fact that they're willing to forego any playoffs or league titles says everything you need to know.

ROB RADICE (Comment on NJ.com article)

Outstanding points stated by WWP Superintendent Dr. Aderhold and Athletic Director Ken Mason. The West Jersey Football league dropped the ball as did the NJSIAA in not doing what was "right" by the student athletes from both WWP North and South. This proposed merger has nothing to do with gaining a competitive advantage, but has to do with giving kids an opportunity to participate in football and be a part of something positive. There is a responsibility to provide opportunities for all kids to participate even if the governing bodies have to adjust their rules and bylaws to accommodate special situations that arise from time to time. Only the kids lose out when the adults or governing bodies aren't flexible. Ask yourselves the question, "What have you done for kids today?"

ANDY (Comment on NJ.com article)

If the NJSIAA is truly representing "the best interests of high school athletics," then they need to actively review the situation WWP High School North is facing, and not apply a one-size-fits-all template to the situation. Football, and all other sports for that matter, have much lower participation rates compared to the overall number of students in our WWP schools. Even a cursory review of the program would indicate that we are not trying to create a powerhouse team. We do not have the participation required to field a football team that would be dominant. NJSIAA need to actively participate in solving this issue, not apply inappropriate regulations. If they are not truly interested in succeeding in their mission, then they have become irrelevant and need to be replaced. We need to save football, and all sports, in our district for all of the future scholar athletes so they can benefit from the many learning opportunities they will experience on the field in addition to the classroom.

#savenorthfootball #playnorthfootball

BOBBY (Comment on NJ.com article)

Since the student demographics of the WW-P school district is heavily slanted towards families of Asian heritage with little past exposure to American sports particularly football, an exception should be made to allow students who have experienced this sport in the past & would like to participate on a level, safe playing field; be allowed to field a properly sized competitive team without fear of injury and have a real opportunity to fairly compete.

AB (Comment on NJ.com article)

One must look at the demographics as well as the enrollment numbers. WWP is a majority Asian community. Team contact sports are not part of the Asian culture.

Football is really the only team sport where a player's performance impacts the safety of their teammates. You just can't compromise on the requirements for team practice, dedication, and personal training. Really- there is no other sport that develops a young man's strength and character like football. This sport requires hours of team practice and personal training. Many new Americans aren't willing to have their son practice 5 days a week in August, for various reasons.

So now in WWP the minority population is looking for a way to preserve our culture. Why can't NJSIAA make the effort to understand what is happening in this area? Baseball is soon to follow---

I'm being a little bold as a WWP mom who's student athlete son graduates from a local private school this year, a 2-team sport 4-year varsity athlete.

Julia (Comment on NJ.com article)

This ruling seems to defy common sense. Much attention has been focused in recent years on issues of safety in football. Here's an opportunity to make the sport safer for teenagers, and it's being missed. If you look at the facts, it's easy to see this isn't about building a "powerhouse." It's about one town having the numbers to form one safe team.

I understand that denying this waiver may have simplified matters for the NJSIAA. It maintains a precedent which could block mergers undertaken for the wrong reasons. However, all parties involved in this decision should be both wise enough and experienced enough to judge each case on its individual merits--and make decisions in the best interests of the young athletes involved.

Steve (Comment on NJ.com article)

WWP Pop Warner Wildcats Football – Coach

Absolutely ridiculous that NJSIAA not allowing a group of kids to play ball - especially the 4 seniors. I trust our elected officials and those who can reverse this will do the right thing and override a really insane decision that screws over the boys. Any parent of a high school athlete should be absolutely outraged - and hopefully will voice support for West Windsor's efforts. After all - imagine if it was your son.

And just to give even more perspective as to how out of whack NJSIAA is - Pop Warner does everything it can to give every boy who wants to play football the opportunity to play with another program if none is available through their own home town. For example, I coached a Midgets team with players from Princeton, West Windsor, East Windsor, Millstone, Plainsboro, Twin Rivers, Monroe, Allentown, Cranbury, and Lawrence. The kids just wanted to play and their parents wanted their sons to benefit from playing the ultimate team game of football.

Don't let the bullies over at the NJSIAA win - let the boys combine and play!!!

Ryan Owens (Comment on NJ.com article)

NJSIAA - please don't let a blind adherence to a rule that lacks common sense rob the WW-P community from having a competitive football program that everyone can be proud of. I've seen firsthand the impact Coach Reilly and his staff has had on the lives of his players beyond the gridiron, and it would be a shame to stand in the way of countless more positive influences they would have with a combined program that balances safety and character building.

Romer (Comment on NJ.com article)

These boys just want to play football, and WW-P has offered multiple solutions, all of which have been arbitrarily rejected. The NJSIAA has decided to disregard its mission to the student-athlete, which includes opportunity and safety, and focus instead on an arcane rule.

Cavenuti (Comment on NJ.com article)

This is very sad to see happening. The kids just want to play football! It doesn't make sense to have rising seniors "just play JV." Common sense would say to merge the programs, it sounds like a cost-effective alternative as well in a state

that is eliminating the funding of sports programs in many public schools. I'm not sure how this would be much different from the programs in Elizabeth and Trenton.

GFG (Comment on NJ.com article)

Shouldn't the mission of the NJSIAA be to encourage and support student-athletes? It makes absolutely no sense that NJSIAA would choose to let a sport die than help our district keep it alive. To suggest that this will lead to a super-team is completely ridiculous. All our kids want is to play in a safe way. In denying this request, NJSIAA has also impacted the cheerleaders, the marching band, the money raised by groups at the concession stands and more. It will ultimately impact other sports. The kid who plays football may end up moving or going to private school so then we also lose our basketball player and our lacrosse player. The ripple effect will be very bad for HSN. The NJSIAA is on the wrong side of this issue. I hope the Commissioner of Education will have the good sense to put students first!

Jeanne (Comment on NJ.com article)

Do the right thing! Let the kids play!!! It's a no-brainer.

EXHIBIT 2



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Athletic Office
90 Grovers Mill Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
Phone: 609-716-5100
FAX: 609-716-5150

Email: rosskenneth.ww-p.org

Ken Mason, CMAA
Interim Director of Athletics

WJFL League
Scheduling Committee

Dear WJFL Scheduling Committee,

January 25, 2017

I am requesting a letter of appeal for our 2017 football game schedule as per our conversation on Friday January 20, 2017 and the deep concern we have for the players safety (**first and foremost**).

I have been the Head Football Coach at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South since the fall of 2013. I have observed the football program on a decline in athletic talent and numbers to compete at a Group IV level in the West Jersey Football League for three years.

In the 2016 season a new schedule was put in place for the schools in the West Jersey Football League. On our schedule were conference games in the Valley division. Our division is made up of Hamilton West, Hightstown, Ewing, Lawrence, Nottingham and South. Out of the 5 games we played within our division South was competitive in three of the five games. Please see the scores listed below.

Ewing 35 South 12
South 29 Hamilton West 28
Hightstown 35 South 34 (Over time)
Lawrence 44 South 37
Nottingham 40 South 7

Our out of conference games were with WW-P North, Ocean City, Princeton and Pennsauken. This is where I have a deep concern for our players and their safety. We are the only team in Mercer County who plays a team from Cape Atlantic League. The score versus Ocean City was 35-7. We were losing at half 28-0. I happen to know the coach from Ocean City. We talked at half time about Ocean City playing their JV team in the fourth quarter. At the start of the second half Ocean City scored right away. We all know when a team is up by 35 points the clock runs without stopping. South scored with about 1 minute left in the game against Ocean City's JV team who had substitutes in at that level. We did not play a JV game on Monday due to injuries and low numbers available. I am deeply troubled by that since we have players who practiced all week and did not get the chance to participate in a game situation on Monday.

We traveled down to Pennsauken the last Saturday in October. I talked to the coach before the game about our numbers and athletic skills to make him aware of our situation. Pennsauken had about 78 players on their team. Most were very skilled and athletic. From the opening kickoff to half time Pennsauken scored easily and often. This was very disheartening to our players, parents as well as my coaching staff. We had no business playing a team of this caliber. The score at half time was 49-0. To start the second half the 35-0 rule was put in place once again. A very discouraging situation for our players. The final score was 54-0. Many of our players were hurt during the game. We had to play athletes who were put in a game that was very fast for them. It was obvious from our sidelines. Once again we could not field a team for the JV game Monday. So players who practiced all week did not have the chance to play a game on Monday.

We are a group IV school with group II talent at best. South is in a rebuilding stage. We have not fielded a freshmen team in two seasons, we at times can not play a JV game due to sophomores, juniors and even freshmen who have to play varsity football.

I have been a head football coach for over 30 years and only one time have I ever played freshmen in a varsity game. The last two seasons I have had no choice. I have had to put freshmen player's in game's when I felt their safety was not compromised and could compete at the varsity level and that was on special teams.

I am working feverishly to re-build South's program. We presently have 28 players returning for the 2017 season. In my professional opinion we have no business competing with teams such as Ocean City and Pennsauken. As stated their skill level is outstanding and their numbers double ours.

This needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Our program will not gain anything positive by playing Ocean City and Pennsauken and in most cases it will discourage students from participating in football at South..

I am asking for consideration for Ocean City, Pennsauken as well as South to opt out of the games as soon as possible so both schools can find a game to fit their level of play. The South program needs to find two games that we can compete in, not necessarily win but be able to compete if we are going to gain numbers and athletic talent for our future.

When discussing the content of this letter keep in mind a few factors;

1. The player's safety
2. Providing Ocean City and Pennsauken the chance to play a team who will give them a test as well compete the entire game.
3. WW-P South's ability to compete and feel good about their playing level.
3. Rebuilding South football program back to respectability of the early years as well the 2008-2012 seasons by gaining some wins or keeping the score close in a loss.
4. Finding two teams South can compete with during the 2017 season that will help students inside the building willing to take the chance to play football once again. Thus, our numbers and athletic talent regaining the respect ability it once had.
5. Fielding a freshmen team as well as being able to play JV games.

In closing I look forward to hearing back from WJFL and their competence of helping a football team be competitive, stressing the importance of safety for the players and also to help a program rebuild.
Thank you.


Sincerely yours,

Skip Edwards

Head Football Coach

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South

EXHIBIT 3



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Athletic Office
90 Grovers Mill Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
Phone: 609-716-5100
FAX: 609-716-5150
Email: rosskenneth.ww-p.org

Ken Mason, CMAA
Interim Director of Athletics

Dear West Jersey Football League,

My name is Jeff Reilly and I am the head football coach at West Windsor-Plainsboro North. I am writing you on behalf of our football program with deep safety concerns about the upcoming 2017 football season.

We finished our 2016 season with 46 total players in our varsity program. The total number consists of 22 freshman most of which have never played football and 13 seniors that are graduating from our program. This trend has been on the decline over the past three years. We are in fear that this upcoming season we will have 25 players returning from last years program and unsure about how many students will join the program. The extremely low numbers is most importantly creating a safety issue both in practice and especially during games. We control our practices and make them as safe as possible for the numerous inexperienced and under sized players, but in a varsity competition we do not have the same control. The control that we do have in the issue over safety during game play is what teams we are scheduling to play. In order to help the process of rebuilding our football program we are hoping to have on of the following things happen:

- Play an independent schedule in the 2017 season
- Play an all junior varsity and freshman schedule in the 2017 season
- Develop a Co-Op program with our in district high school WW-P South. Dropping one of our football programs and have kids from one high school have the opportunity to go play at the other high school.

I hope you please consider and support one of our options so that we can effectively rebuild this football program. Our goal in rebuilding the football program at WW-P North is to provide a safe experience to our student athletes that ensures to learn lessons that extend beyond the playing field.

Thank you,

Jeff Reilly
Head Football Coach
West Windsor-Plainsboro North

EXHIBIT 4



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

321 Village Road East
West Windsor, NJ 08550
Telephone: (609) 716-5000, x 5040
Fax: (609) 716-5021
david.aderhold@ww-p.org

David Aderhold, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

February 24, 2017

Mr. Steven Timko, Executive Director
Mr. Jack DuBois, Assistant Director
New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
1161 US-130
Trenton, NJ 08691

Dear Mr. Timko and Mr. DuBois,

I am writing to inform the NJSIAA that without immediate remedy, the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District will be dismantling its football program at High School North. Furthermore, I am significantly concerned that WW-P is within a season or two of the elimination of the High School South football program as well.

Historically, both High School South and High School North have remained competitive in the Colonial Valley Conference. During the past five seasons, we have seen a dramatic reduction in the interest of student-athletes for contact sports. In part, this is due to the growing body of research and concerns raised regarding traumatic brain injuries and concussions. While our high school enrollment has remained relatively consistent at High School South, we have seen a 200-student decline at High School North. Complicating the matter further, for the past three seasons, both High School South and High School North have been unable to field levels of sub-varsity (Freshman and/or JV). Further, the local Pop Warner West Windsor Wildcats, which represents athletes that send to Hightstown, Princeton, and WW-P, has seen a decline in participation. Our statistics indicate a declining participation in Pop Warner will mean a lower high school participation rate in future years (see attached). Hence, the lack of a robust feeder program, coupled by decreasing enrollment, fear of sports injury and concussions, and the inability to run sub-varsity programs leaves WW-P in a position that we are unable to safely field a team at High School North for the 2017 season. In addition, we are monitoring the potential elimination for High School South as well, as several students are contemplating transfer to private or parochial schools.

To maintain football in WW-P, I am requesting that NJSIAA immediately consider allowing High School North and High School South to enter into a cooperative agreement for football. Please note that granting relief of schedule simply is not the answer, as we currently lack the number of student-athletes to safely maintain two football programs in WW-P. Changing our

Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.

grouping or swapping out teams such as Allentown, Nottingham, or Northern Burlington for High School North or Pennsauken and Ocean City for High School South does little to change the fact that we will struggle to field all positions without relying on underclassmen; asking undersized and inexperienced sophomores and freshman athletes to play Varsity football demonstrates a potential safety risk to all athletes on the field.

We are guided by your mission statement: "A safe and healthy playing environment is essential to our mission." In WW-P, we agree with the mission statement of the NJSIAA and support the tenets of academic achievement, good citizenship, and equitable opportunities.

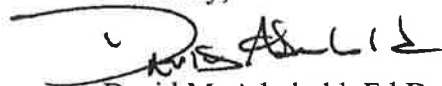
Page 81 of the NJSIAA Constitution states that the "intent of the Cooperative Sports Program is to afford greater opportunity to students to participate in interscholastic sports when the enrollment of their school would not allow either the initiative of such a sport or its continuance. No Cooperative Sports Program should be undertaken to enhance the competitive advantage of a member school or the reduction of opportunities by students to participate in a particular sport." As currently written, the Cooperative Sports Program Application prohibits the cooperative agreement for a Group III and Group IV school. We are seeking relief from this provision so that we are able to move forward with a Cooperative Sports Program Application in an effort to maintain football as an interscholastic sport in WW-P.

In fairness to other member districts, the timing of your decision is important as the West Jersey Football League will need to reshuffle the schedule for several other member districts. Furthermore, there are several athletes considering transfer to private or parochial schools. Should the NJSIAA not be willing to grant relief, we ask that you allow students the right to transfer without penalty of the new transfer rules requiring a 30-day sit per season previously played.

Ultimately, our desire is to allow our students to have a safe and enjoyable playing experience. Should this request be granted we will accept any sanctions toward playoffs or post-season participation. This request is about ensuring the safety of our student-athletes and affording the opportunity for students to participate in interscholastic sports. This request has nothing to do with athletic advantage.

We ask your assistance in granting the Cooperative Agreement to preserve football in our community. As a governing body, you alone may hold the fate of football in WW-P. I respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David M. Aderhold", written over a horizontal line.

David M. Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

*Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro
Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a
diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.*

EXHIBIT 5



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

321 Village Road East
West Windsor, NJ 08550
Telephone: (609) 716-5000, x 5040
Fax: (609) 716-5021
david.aderhold@ww-p.org

David Aderhold, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

April 5, 2017

Mr. Bud Kowal,
West Jersey Football League
900 Parkway Avenue
Ewing, NJ 08618

Mr. Kowal,

I am writing to formally request the approval of the West Jersey Football League to approve and support the immediate cooperative agreement of High School South and High School North for Football.

Historically, both High School South and High School North have remained competitive in the Colonial Valley Conference. During the past five seasons, we have seen a dramatic reduction in the interest of student-athletes for contact sports. Complicating the matter further, for the past three seasons, both High School South and High School North have been unable to field levels of sub-varsity (Freshman and/or JV). Further, the local Pop Warner West Windsor Wildcats, which represents athletes that send to Hightstown, Princeton, Cranbury, New Egypt and West Windsor and Plainsboro has seen a decline in participation. Hence, the lack of a robust feeder program, coupled by decreasing enrollment, fear of sports injury and concussions, and the inability to run sub-varsity programs leaves WW-P in a position that we are unable to safely field a team at High School North for the 2017 season.

To maintain football in WW-P, I am requesting that WJFL immediately allow High School North and High School South to enter into a cooperative agreement for Football. Please note that granting relief of schedule simply is not the answer, as we currently lack the number of student-athletes to safely maintain two football programs in WW-P. Changing our grouping or swapping out teams does little to change the fact that we will struggle to field all positions without relying on underclassmen.

In fairness to other member districts, the timing of your decision is important as the West Jersey Football League will need to reshuffle the schedule for several other member districts.

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Ultimately, our desire is to allow our students to have a safe and enjoyable playing experience. Should this request be granted we will accept any sanctions toward playoffs or post-season participation. This request is about ensuring the safety of our student-athletes and affording the opportunity for students to participate in interscholastic sports. This request has nothing to do with athletic advantage.

We ask your immediate attention to this matter as time is of the essence.

Sincerely,



David M. Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc. **Mr. Ken Mason, Interim Athletic Director**
Dr. Jonathan Dauber, Principal, High School North
Mr. Dennis Lepold, Principal, High School South
fkowal@ewingboe.org

*Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro
Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a
diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.*

EXHIBIT 6



To: Members of the Executive Committee League and Conference Committee

From: Bud Kowal – West Jersey Football League President

I am sending this information on behalf of the 95 member schools of the West Jersey Football League in response to the request by the West Windsor Plainsboro School District for a waiver of the NJSIAA Constitution Rule which prohibits schools of Group 3 size or larger to form a Co Op for Football.

Throughout this process the WJFL has followed all NJSIAA rules as well as all WJFL rules. The WJFL called for a vote of all member schools to decide this issue and the request was defeated by a large majority of 76 'NO' votes to 16 'YES' votes. While sympathetic to WWPN's situation WJFL member schools that voted 'NO' for the Co Op request identified many reasons for their votes as listed below:

1. The NJSIAA Constitution states 'The intent of the Cooperative Sports Program is to afford greater opportunity to students to participate in interscholastic sports when the enrollment of their school would not allow either the initiation of such a sport or its continuance.' With an NJSIAA recognized enrollment of 1,034 students WWPN should have the ability to field a team on their own. If WWPS with an NJSIAA recognized enrollment of 1,227 students the WWP Co Op would have an enrollment of 2,261 – making it the largest school in the WJFL and one of the largest schools in the state.
2. The NJSIAA Constitution further states 'the fact that a school with declining enrollment has not been able to satisfactorily compete in a particular sport will not in itself allow it to participate in a Cooperative Sports Program.' WWPN does not have a declining student enrollment and the football team did win 3 games during the 2016 season.
3. In the Co Op request WWPN lists only students who will be in grades 11 and 12 in the fall of 2017, stating that 10th grade students would not be able to play at the varsity level. Many, if not most, WJFL member school programs play 10th graders and even 9th graders on their varsity teams.
4. The large majority of WJFL member schools (and NJSIAA member schools) believe that any change to the rules contained within the NJSIAA Constitution should only be changed by the vote of all NJSIAA member schools at the December Meeting. Changing the rule to allow for Group 3, 4, and 5 schools will be on the ballot for December 2017 and that is where and when this issue should be decided – not by the Executive Committee.

5. Granting a waiver to this rule will have an impact not only on WJFL member schools but on all schools in the state of New Jersey, opening the door for all others to request and be granted waivers. There were many concerns voiced at the meeting of leaders from all football conferences in the state (L & C Football Committee).
6. The WJFL has mechanisms in place to give relief to struggling programs
 - a. Every two years align by strength of program, geography,
 - b. Currently going into year 2 of cycle
 - c. A WWP Co Op would completely dismantle the aligning and scheduling criteria of the WJFL for the 2017 season. This would have a serious impact on the schools scheduled against WWPS since the aligning and scheduling was based upon only WWPS strength of program.
 - d. A WWP Co Op would also not only impact the 9 schools scheduled to play WWPN at the varsity level – it would also cause those 9 schools to also have to find JV and Frosh opponents that week as well. If WWPN played just a sub-varsity schedule this would alleviate at least some of this problem.

There are other options for WWPN and its Football Program other than requesting a waiver and/or change to the NJSIAA Constitution. For the reasons listed above the WJFL recommends the following:

1. WWPS play their assigned schedule since they have enough players - This will allow WWPS opponents to play the schedule provided them under the agreed upon alignment and scheduling criteria
2. WWPN field sub varsity teams in 2017 (JV, freshman, or frosh-more teams) - This would allow the program to continue and hopefully grow – hopefully allowing a return to varsity play by the 2018-2019 cycle.
3. WJFL will work with the 9 schools scheduled to play WWPN to find them opponents and enable those schools to have full nine game schedules. It is extremely important to those schools scheduled to play WWPN that they know whom and when they will be playing in place of WWPN.

The WJFL leadership and members schools are willing to work with WWPN to give them relief and help them to grow their program in the next scheduling cycle as has been done for other member schools in years past by utilizing our aligning and scheduling regulations.

We will have leaders from each of the 6 member conferences in attendance at the hearing and will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted n behalf of the West Jersey Football League,

Bud Kowal

WJFL President

EXHIBIT 7

NJSIAA Legislative Proposal

The West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District is proposing the following changes to the NJSIAA constitution and bylaws:

Section 10.B

Insert New #9

- (9) Cooperative teams may exist in football in Group III, IV, and V under the following conditions:
 - (A) Teams agree to forgo any divisional championship and/or state tournament competition.
 - (B) The maximum number of players between requesting schools may not to exceed fifty (50) in grades 10 and 11 (rising juniors and seniors).
 - (C) The cooperative arrangement should be examined every two-year (exemptions should coincide with the two-year scheduling cycle).
 - (D) Co-op teams may be eligible for a regional crossover game.

Current

Section 10.B

- (5) No program shall include basketball, baseball, softball or spring track. In addition, no program for football, soccer or lacrosse shall include a Group III school.

Proposed change

- (5) Remove “football”

NJSIAA Legislative Proposal

Below please find the rationale for the submitted proposal from the West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District regarding changes to the NJSIAA constitution and bylaws:

After considering all available options, the West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School district is requesting that the NJSIAA allow High School North and High School South to enter into a cooperative agreement for football for the 2017 – 2018 season. We are asking for emergent relief of the governing rules to maintain football in WW-P. We will need the NJSIAA Executive Committees assistance in allowing our student athletes to continue football at HSN for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Initially we looked at requesting relief in our schedule for specific teams; however gaining relief of schedule simply is not the answer, as we currently lack the number of student-athletes to safely maintain two football programs in WW-P.

During the past the past three seasons, High School South and High School North Football have been unable to field various levels of sub-varsity (Freshman and/or JV). This impact can be seen in the chart included below. Additionally, our local Pop Warner team, the West Windsor Wildcats, have essentially entered into a “cooperative agreement” in order to maintain its viability. This team represents athletes that send from Hightstown, Princeton, Cranbury, New Egypt, West Windsor and Plainsboro.

The lack of a robust feeder program, coupled by decreasing enrollment at High School North, fear of sports injury and concussions, and the inability to run sub-varsity programs leaves WW-P in a position that we are unable to safely field a team at High School North for the 2017 season. In addition, we are monitoring our football numbers at High School South as well, as several students are contemplating transfer to private or parochial schools.

Our ultimate desire is to allow our students to have a safe and enjoyable playing experience. This request and the proposed legislation is about ensuring the safety of our student-athletes and affording the opportunity for students to participate in interscholastic sports. This request has nothing to do with athletic advantage.

Regarding Proposed 10.B (9)(B)

- (B) The maximum number of players between requesting schools may not to exceed fifty (50) in grades 10 and 11 (rising juniors and seniors).

It is difficult to project the number of 9th graders that continue football, let alone have the capability to play at the varsity level as sophomores. If we include 9/10/11 graders into the exemption waiver it is possible to have 30 9th graders (we have 27 below). Including freshman

may skew the numbers and continue to mask the roster problem. We believe counting rising 11th and 12th graders is a more realistic and truer picture of varsity players.

2016 – 2017 Roster: Students Committed to Return for the 2017 – 2018 Season

16-17 Season	HSN	HSS	Totals	
11	4	11	15	26
10	5	6	11	
9	16	11	27	
		TOTAL	53	
8 (WW-P Wildcats)	13	4		

EXHIBIT 8

Letter Provided to the WJFL on April 5, 2017

- “I am writing to formally request the approval of the West Jersey Football League to approve and support the immediate cooperative agreement of High School South and High School North for Football.”
- “Historically, both High School South and High School North have remained competitive in the Colonial Valley Conference. During the past five seasons, we have seen a dramatic reduction in the interest of student-athletes for contact sports. Complicating the matter further, for the past three seasons, both High School South and High School North have been unable to field levels of sub-varsity (Freshman and/or JV). Further, the local Pop Warner West Windsor Wildcats, which represents athletes that send to Hightstown, Princeton, Cranbury, New Egypt and West Windsor and Plainsboro has seen a decline in participation. Hence, the lack of a robust feeder program, coupled by decreasing enrollment, fear of sports injury and concussions, and the inability to run sub-varsity programs leaves WW-P in a position that we are unable to safely field a team at High School North for the 2017 season.”
- “To maintain football in WW-P, I am requesting that WJFL immediately allow High School North and High School South to enter into a cooperative agreement for Football. Please note that granting relief of schedule simply is not the answer, as we currently lack the number of student-athletes to safely maintain two football programs in WW-P. Changing our grouping or swapping out teams does little to change the fact that we will struggle to field all positions without relying on underclassmen.”
- “In fairness to other member districts, the timing of your decision is important as the West Jersey Football League will need to reshuffle the schedule for several other member districts.”
- “Ultimately, our desire is to allow our students to have a safe and enjoyable playing experience. Should this request be granted we will accept any sanctions toward playoffs or post-season participation. This request is about ensuring the safety of our student-athletes and affording the opportunity for students to participate in interscholastic sports. This request has nothing to do with athletic advantage.”

Rationale for NJSIAA Legislative Proposal

Rationale for the Proposed Changes to the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws:

- a. After considering all available options, the West Windsor -- Plainsboro Regional School district is requesting that the NJSIAA allow High School North and High

School South to enter into a cooperative agreement for football for the 2017 – 2018 season.

- b. We are asking for emergent relief of the governing rules to maintain football in WW-P. We will need the NJSIAA Executive Committees assistance in allowing our student athletes to continue football at HSN for the 2017 – 2018 school year.
- c. Initially we looked at requesting relief in our schedule for specific teams; however gaining relief of schedule simply is not the answer, as we currently lack the number of student-athletes to safely maintain two football programs in WW-P.
- d. During the past the past three seasons, High School South and High School North Football have been unable to field various levels of sub-varsity (Freshman and/or JV). This impact can be seen in the chart included below.
- e. Additionally, our local Pop Warner team, the West Windsor Wildcats, have essentially entered into a “cooperative agreement” in order to maintain its viability. This team represents athletes that send from Hightstown, Princeton, Cranbury, New Egypt, West Windsor and Plainsboro.
- f. The lack of a robust feeder program, coupled by decreasing enrollment at High School North, fear of sports injury and concussions, and the inability to run sub-varsity programs leaves WW-P in a position that we are unable to safely field a team at High School North for the 2017 season. In addition, we are monitoring our football numbers at High School South as well, as several students are contemplating transfer to private or parochial schools.

Our ultimate desire is to allow our students to have a safe and enjoyable playing experience. This request and the proposed legislation is about ensuring the safety of our student-athletes and affording the opportunity for students to participate in interscholastic sports. This request has nothing to do with athletic advantage.

2016 – 2017 Roster: Students Committed to Return for the 2017 – 2018 Season

16-17 Season	HSN	HSS	Totals	
11	4	11	15	26
10	5	6	11	
9	15	11	26	
		TOTAL	52	
8 (WW-P Wildcats)	13	4		

Breakdown of Youth Football Participation in West Windsor

FALL 2016

Participants by Playing Level in West Windsor Wildcats				
Level (AGE)	North	South	Out of District	Total Participating
Cub (5-7)	11	10	5	26
Mitey Mite (8-9)	19	11	8	38
Junior Pee Wee (10 – 11)	17	11	3	31
Pee Wee (11 – 12)	9	9	8	26
Varsity (13 – 14)	13	4	14	31

School	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Total	W-L	Division Champs	State Playoffs Round
HSN	9	10	11	12	Total 10-12	V/JV/F			
2009	33	14	19	16	49	V/JV/F	6-4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2010	34	18	10	16	44	V/JV/F	7-3	<input type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2011	32	13	14	10	37	V/JV/F	1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2012	29	21	13	13	47	V/JV/F	0-10	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2013		20	15	12	47	V/JV/F	3-7	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2014		13	21	12	46	V/JV/F	5-5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2015	13*	21	7	15	43	V/JV	5-5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2016	23**	8	7	10	25	V/F	3-7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2017	TBD	15	5	4	24			<input type="checkbox"/>	

***1 freshman lettered on Varsity**

****2 freshmen lettered on Varsity**

School	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Total	W/L	Division Champs	State Playoffs (Please select from drop down menu)
HSS	9	10	11	12	Total 10-12	V/JV/F			
2005							10-1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Semi Finals
2006							7-3	<input type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2007							10-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finals
2008							10-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi Finals
2009							5-5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2010							4-6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did Not Qualify
2011							9-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi Finals
2012							8-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	1st Round
2013	26	12	18	22	52	V/JV/F	3-7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did Not Qualify
2014	20	17	12	16	45	V/JV/F*	1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did Not Qualify
2015	15	18	15	12	45	V/JV	0-10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did Not Qualify
2016	11	8	11	13	32	V/JV	2-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did Not Qualify
2017	TBD	11	6	11	28				

*Freshman team season ended after 5 games due to injuries

WW-P North Football Recruitment Efforts by Coach Jeff Reilly

Efforts Made to Recruit Students to Join Football:

- Visit Community Middle School once a week on Wednesday afternoons
- Speak with Community Middle School sports teams
- Attend Community Middle School athletic competitions
- Meeting with students at Community Middle School
 - Show highlight film during lunch
 - Have WW-P North football players talk to students in the lunch room
 - Speak with all interested students in the auditorium about playing football
- Meeting with 8th grade parents at Community Middle School
 - WW-P North football alumni speak to the parents
 - Dr. Don Haas speak about safety in football
 - Address 8th grade parents about the football program's positive benefits
- Volunteer coach at the West Windsor Wildcats pop warner spring flag football
- Hold coaching clinics for West Windsor Wildcat football coaches
- Summer Youth Camp at High School North: Northern Knights Youth Football Camp
- Attend West Windsor Wildcat Youth Football games in the fall and occasionally at practice
- Speak at the end of the season West Windsor Wildcat Youth Football banquet
- Actively speak with students at High School North about joining football
- Invite students at High School North to take part in our offseason strength and conditioning program throughout the winter, spring and summer
- Speak at the Dutch Neck Elementary activities night and participate in the evening events
- Speak with 8th grade parents at the High School North 8th grade orientation
- Provide information to the elementary schools about joining pop warner football, spring flag football and our youth football camp.

Levels of Football at WWP HSS years 2010 until Fall Season 2017:

2010-11	All 3 levels
2011-12	All 3 levels
2012-13	2 levels no freshman football
2013-14	All 3 levels
2014-15 Varsity record 1-9 JV 1-6	All 3 levels freshman played 4 games record 0-4
2015-16 Varsity record 0-10 JV 2-7	2 levels no freshman team
2016-17 Varsity record 2-8 JV played 6 games 0-6	2 levels no freshman team
2017-18	

Levels of Football at WWP HSN years 2010 until Fall Season 2017:

2010-11	All 3 levels
2011-12	All 3 levels
2012-13	All 3 levels
2013-14	All 3 levels
2014-15 Varsity record 5-5 JV 3-6 frosh 2-6	All 3 levels
2015-16 Varsity 5-5 JV 2-7	2 Levels Varsity/JV
2016-17 Varsity 3-7 Frosh 1-7	2 Levels Varsity/Frosh
2017-18	

2016 Record for HSS and HSN

Patriot

School	League Record	Overall Record
Allentown	5 - 0 - 0	10 - 2 - 0
Pemberton	3 - 2 - 0	5 - 5 - 0
Steinert	3 - 2 - 0	5 - 5 - 0
West Windsor-Plainsboro North	2 - 3 - 0	3 - 7 - 0
Northern Burlington	2 - 3 - 0	3 - 7 - 0
Princeton	0 - 5 - 0	1 - 9 - 0

Valley

School	League Record	Overall Record
Nottingham	4 - 1 - 0	7 - 3 - 0
Ewing	4 - 1 - 0	7 - 4 - 0
Lawrence	3 - 2 - 0	7 - 3 - 0
Hamilton	2 - 3 - 0	6 - 5 - 0
West Windsor-Plainsboro South	1 - 4 - 0	2 - 8 - 0
Hightstown	1 - 4 - 0	1 - 9 - 0

EXHIBIT 9



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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david.aderhold@ww-p.org

David Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

May 12, 2017

RE: Request for Emergent Relief for a Cooperative Agreement for the 2017 – 2018 Football Season - West Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District vs. West Jersey Football League

To Whom It May Concern:

On Friday April 28th, WWP received the official vote of our Co Op request from the West Jersey Football League. Based upon the results received (copied below) we are respectfully appealing the leagues decision as it is clear that the league is not acting in the best interests of the WWP football players.

WJFL results of WWP Co Op Vote

Home Conference	YES	NO
Burlington County Scholastic League	5	9
Cape-Atlantic	2	15
Colonial	0	12
Colonial Valley	8	6
Olympic	1	14
Tri-County	0	20
Total	16	76

In accordance with the NJSIAA Mission Statement, the organization “supports academic achievement, good citizenship and fair and equitable opportunities.” In West Windsor – Plainsboro our request for emergent relief is in alignment with the mission of the NJSIAA as we are seeking the opportunities for our athletes to play football for the Fall 2017.

Essential to your mission is the statement, “We believe that member schools, along with their leagues and conferences, share these convictions:

- A safe and healthy playing environment is essential to our mission.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics enhances the educational experiences of all students.

- Interscholastic participation develops good citizenship and healthy life-styles, fosters involvement of a diverse population and promotes positive school/community relations.
- Rules promote fair play and minimized risk.

I have highlighted these four "convictions" as evidence that the fundamental request by WWP aligns with the Mission of NJSIAA. Additionally, the determination of the WJFL falls in complete conflict with the fact pattern and circumstances facing our football program and does not serve the student athletes of our WWP football community. Further, allowing the WJFL ruling to stand conflicts with the values promoted in the NJSIAA mission statement and accompanying convictions.

We ask the League and Conference Committee to keep in mind the following points regarding the one year emergent relief waiver request:

- This waiver for a one year (2017) co-op is being proposed for the sole reason of giving our students the opportunity to participate in football in WW-P in a safe manner. This has nothing to do with athletic advantage.
- Should the waiver be granted we would agree to forgo post-season playoff competition and divisional championships. We simply want to offer our students the opportunity to play football. Further, WWP is willing to receive additional sanctions should it be determined necessary in order for our athletes to have an opportunity to play football.
- Transferring students from High School North to High School South to play football would diminish all athletic teams at HSN. Further, seniors should not have to transfer from a community that they have been a part of for three years in order to play football. This is fundamentally unfair.

Other points of consideration:

Power Points and the impact of a Co Op team on opponents:

Combined records last year for HSN and HSS were 3-6 at North and 2-8 at South. With so few returning members it is not logical that a Co Op team would legitimately dash hopes of post-season play of others as connected to power points. However, if deemed a condition of the emergent relief the WWP school district would accept an automatic forfeiture of all games in order to allow our students the opportunity to play football during the Fall 2017 season. This would grant our opponents the quality points and group points. Presuming WWP became a Co Op Group 5 school that would provide opponents with a total of 11 total points. This recommendation doesn't take into consideration is the distribution of residual points.

Please keep in mind; should North attempt to field a team and have to forfeit any number of games, power points would be of similar concern to their opponents.

Schedule:

Concerns may exist over filling the space in a team's schedule the week they were supposed to play High School North. If a waiver and co-op is offered to WW-P, HSN's scheduled opponents would theoretically not have an opponent that week. However, the WJFL has been aware of this concern since January and they have indicated that they can address the possible scheduling issue by removing HSN's schedule for the Fall 2017.

As mentioned throughout, this request is about opportunity and participation of athletes, not championships or athletic advantage. We want to help support the existence of football and the students who learn and grow based on their connection to football. Our intent is that the Co Op would not be a permanent resolution. Ideally, we want our own teams at North and South, at all three levels, but if we do not do something to support this program in its current state, the long term existence of football in WW-P as a whole, will be jeopardized. We cannot expect that a school with no program for any number of years would ever be able to suddenly recover to the point of fielding teams in a safe and appropriate manner.

We ask the League and Conference Committee to find in the favor of West Windsor -- Plainsboro's request for emergent relief to enter into a cooperative agreement for the Fall 2017 season.

We are asking for your help and support. We are asking that you afford our students an opportunity to be part of a football team; one that places an emphasis on safety, growth and development.

Sincerely,



David M. Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

EXHIBIT 10



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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David Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

May 24, 2017

RE: West Windsor-Plainsboro ("WWP") Resolution on Co-Curricular Activities & Athletics and Request for a Hearing

Dear Mr. Timko,

As indicated in my letter dated May 19, 2017, the WWP Board of Education ("Board") unanimously adopted the enclosed resolution entitled, "Resolution of the West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District Concerning Participation and Programmatic Efficiencies for Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities" at its meeting on May 23, 2017.¹

Throughout the past few months, members of our football community have patiently waited for the processes established by the WJFL and NJSIAA to provide either a solution or a response to the proposals that have been submitted. We have respectfully participated in all processes outlined and endured numerous attempts to try to secure the opportunity for our student athletes to safely participate in Football for the Fall 2017 season.

As you well know, in exchange for allowing our students the opportunity to participate, WWP willingly offered and volunteered to forgo any championships or post season participation, as well as accept any additional sanctions as determined by the NJSIAA, including providing any opposing team that we play with all of the applicable points that would have been acquired by virtue of a forfeiture. Again, WWP seeks only to allow our student athletes the opportunity to participate and to fulfill the responsibility that our students are not precluded from a "full opportunity to participate, irrespective of their race, religion or the school that they are attending." With all due respect, those processes have, to date, failed the student-athletes of our District, and there has been a troubling overreliance, in our opinion, on competition and convenience at the expense of student participation.

With impending end of the 2016-2017 school year and fast approaching start to the 2017 Fall Sports Season close at hand, WWP has only the following options:

- Option 1 - WWP can choose to maintain two teams for the 2017 season. Participation in weekly competition will be decided on a week to week basis as determined by the safety and viability of our program. Failure to participate in any of the scheduled games, even if based on legitimate safety concerns (which have not been disputed by the WJFL or the NJSIAA) are subject to financial penalty by the NJSIAA as set forth in the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws.

¹ As you know, the Board attempted to obtain feedback from the NJSIAA and provided an advance copy for the NJSIAA's review and consideration; however, we did not receive a response prior to the Board's meeting on May 23, 2017.

- Option 2 - Recommended by the WJFL, close the varsity program at HSN and run a JV/Freshman team. Seniors and prior letter winners for HSN would be forced to play JV, transfer or choose to quit football. Candidly, neither the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education or our District Central and High School Administrations find this to be viable option as it unnecessarily punishes current upperclassmen, Varsity student athletes by unnecessarily denying them the opportunity to participate.
- Option 3 – Enact the provision set forth in the newly adopted West Windsor – Plainsboro Board of Education resolution; all of which are based on current provisions in the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws. As previously discussed during our in-person meeting on May 16, 2017, this resolution affords District High School pupils equal access and the opportunity to participate under the following delineated terms:
 - Pupils will continue to be required to participate in the co-curricular and/or athletic programs at their school of residence, which is where they attend for their academic program, unless a particular athletic program and/or co-curricular program (excluding student run clubs) is not offered at their school residence, but is offered at another District High School.
 - In a circumstance where a particular athletic program and/or co-curricular program (excluding student run clubs) is not offered at a pupil's school residence but is offered at another District High School, that pupil will be afforded the access and opportunity to participate in that particular athletic program and/or co-curricular program at another District High School.
 - More specifically, should a student register to participate for a sport or co-curricular activity that is not available at their home school, that the student will have to remain at their home school for their academic program, but will be allowed to participate at the neighboring school on a seasonal basis.

These conditions are more fully spelled out in the enclosed resolution that was adopted by the Board at its meeting on May 23, 2017. This is clearly the only option that addresses the universally acknowledged health and safety concerns for our student athletes, and also upholds the mandated guiding principles of affording all students equal access to the opportunity to participate in a full schedule of interscholastic sports.

Therefore, in accordance with Article XIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws, WWP respectfully requests a Hearing on the immediate enactment of the enclosed Board Resolution. More specifically, Article XIII Section 6, specifically states:

In emergent circumstances where time will not permit a controversy to be heard by the Controversies Committee. The Executive Committee may hear such a controversy and render a decision thereon in an informal manner after all involved parties are provided with notice and an opportunity to present their positions before the Executive Committee.”

For the foregoing reasons, WWP submits that emergent circumstances are present here sufficient to invoke an immediate Hearing with the Executive Committee on the enactment of the enclosed Board resolution:

- Since hiring determinations for the Fall 2017 Sports Season must be made no later than the Board's meeting on June 27, 2017, time is of the essence.
- Additionally, programmatic decisions must be made regarding running both a WWP High School South ("HSS") and a WWP High School North ("HSN") team or a HSS only no later than the June 27, 2017 Board meeting.
- HSN student athletes and their families, who have been patiently awaiting a determination from the NJSIAA over the past couple of months as we have worked within the WFJL's and NJSIAA's internal processes and procedures, deserve an outcome no later than the established June 7th Executive Committee; especially since the next Executive Committee does not occur until September 2017.
- Any recommendation from the NJSIAA to propose legislation will take 1 ½ years based upon the process utilized for changes to the Constitution or Bylaws. The process for the December 2017 vote has concluded. Therefore, based upon NJSIAA rule, no vote could occur until December 2018, which would result in the unnecessary loss of two full seasons.

Further, during our May 16th meeting, which was summarized in my letter dated May 19, 2017 (a copy of which is again enclosed and is incorporated herein), we discussed the concept for the proposed resolution that was adopted by the WWP Board of Education last evening. Further, we discussed that such a concept is not novel or new since the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws already allow for and provide such opportunities for Vo-Tech and Public Academies. That concept, and our aim in requesting this for our students, is rooted in concepts of fulfilling the NJSIAA's mission and core values to afford students the opportunity for participation and access to full co-curricular activities and programs, while at the same time taking appropriate steps to protect the health and safety of student athletes.

Again, the current language in the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws for Vo-Tech/Public Academies that we all referenced is as follows:

CL 8 Vo-Tech/Public Academy – Full-Time – When a student-athlete elects to transfer to or from a Vocational-Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the student is subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K (1) and (2). If a Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy.

(emphasis added).

As set forth in the enclosed resolution, a WWP student that is zoned (based on his/her residence) to attend WWP HSN would be required to participate in all seasons for athletic teams at HSN, unless HSN did not have a program in a particular sport. In such a circumstance, that student, who would still be enrolled at HSN for all academics, would be allowed to participate in that sport only at HSS.

It is WWP's position that the extension and utilization of the Vo-Tech/Public Academies provision noted above would also fulfill one of the key stated roles of the NJSIAA to:

Assur[e] that all students enrolled in member schools, who would otherwise be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports, are not precluded from a full opportunity to do so, irrespective of their race, sex, religion, or the school that they are attending.

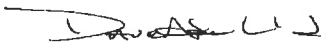
See pg. 97 "EXCERPTS FROM LEAGUE/CONFERENCE POSITION STATEMENT" Adopted by NJSIAA Executive Committee on April 11, 1983 and Amended on June 6, 2002.

As we have discussed, and as noted in our submissions to the NJSIAA, the WWP's sole aim here is to provide equal access, to promote and provide the opportunity for participation and to adequately provide for our student's safety and whole well-being. This approach also presents an opportunity to provide a holistic solution for numerous athletic concerns facing not only WWP, but many other NJSIAA member schools.

I have attached a copy of the resolution that the WWP Board adopted last evening and anticipate being granted a platform and hearing with the Executive Committee on June 7th.

We look forward to hearing your immediate response as this is a pressing and emergent issue brought forward by a member district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Aderhold", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools