

Revised

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 6:00 PM remotely.

Board members present: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino

Board members absent:

Administration present: Dr. Serino, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Candice Burritt, from Durham, explained that the CIAC and Public Health Department are meeting tomorrow and she felt that it might be better to hold off on any vote until after that time. She mentioned that cancelling fall sports may cost a child a sports scholarship. She felt that having a discussion would be fine, but the vote should be held off.

Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education regular session meeting - August 12, 2020

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, approve the minutes from the August 12, 2020 regular session meeting, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of the August 12, 2020 regular session meeting, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting - August 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Mr. Moore also mentioned that there will be a Policy Committee meeting at 5:00 PM on August 26, 2020 to finalize their discussion on masks.

Hybrid Reopening Plan Discussion

Dr. Serino reported that they have received addendum 6 about educating children with disabilities and some changes in the executive order on masks and mask exemptions. They have also received addendum 7 with guidance on visual and performing arts.

Looking at addendum 6, Dr. Serino highlighted that there has been no communication about any temporary flexibility or waiver in terms of special education. Any services that have been documented in an IEP need to be provided, with a strong emphasis on providing as much in-person education as possible and that in-person education should be prioritized. Creativity was necessary between March and June, but in every situation the LRE (least restrictive environment) must be considered for that. The district will work in collaboration with parents, either through conversation or the PPT process to make sure that children's needs are being met. An implementation plan will become necessary if there are any differences in the delivery of services for these students. If no changes are necessary, no implementation plan is needed. Any IEP hours that have been identified in an IEP and would have been delivered in-person should be the same in the hybrid model. This is why some special education students will be coming to school for four days in the hybrid model. Parents maintain their right to dispute any resolutions or options that have been made available to their children. PPTs should continue throughout the year to develop IEPs. Meetings will be held remotely whenever possible.

Dr. Serino shared information from Shipman & Goodwin about masks and highlighted that two key areas have been changed. An older child is no longer exempt if the parent is unable to safely place the mask on the child. Documentation from a healthcare provider is now necessary for any mask exemption. The new executive order is now more closely aligned to the language in the ADA guidelines.

Regarding reopening considerations for music programs (addendum 7) has been shared with the school principals and Erin Schilling, head of the music department. General guidelines include that masks must be worn at all times and physical distance should be maintained. It has also been suggested that bell coverings are used on the instruments to minimize the spread of any droplets. Proper ventilation is necessary and they encourage time between classes to allow for fresh air to enter. Dr. Serino mentioned that a lot of other districts have big challenges with ventilation and she is so grateful for the facilities staff in the district that has consistently kept the ventilation systems up to date here. The final area would be to encourage using percussion instruments in general music classes and more digital approaches to music at this time.

Guidance has also been provided for both choral and instrumental ensembles. They are working on schedules and minimizing the number of students in a class. Dr. Serino also mentioned that she has no update on finding a replacement for the high school instrumental staff member.

Dr. Serino has a to-do list that includes decisions about lunch/snack and they hope to have the elementary students eat lunch out of the classroom. They have contacted a vendor about tents and the Durham Fair Association has donated the use of their picnic tables to each of the schools. They are working on finalizing classroom set-ups, looking carefully at spacing and how a full re-opening can be safely accommodated. Safety ambassadors have been identified in each school and Pre-K and K orientation have been created for next Tuesday at Lyman and Wednesday at Brewster.

Five days of professional development have been scheduled and convocation will be virtual. Dr. Serino has reached out to Christopher Eaves and they are working together on a virtual convocation. They are finalizing required training for teachers, which include DCF reporting, blood-borne pathogens, sexual harassment and several COVID-related training. Teachers will be able to access these training online.

New staff orientation will be on August 24th. Communications to parents are being finalized to help them better understand instructional models. Staffing is being finalized as is the number of students being at home and in school. Hiring is being done as there have been some resignations and they are looking for potential backup.

Dr. Serino is working on checklists in several areas and she commended the district's nurses for their hard work and leadership.

Mr. Yamartino asked is the local Health Director has weighed in on music and Dr. Serino noted that he has not as they just got the information. Their meeting on Tuesday really focused on athletics. Mr. Yamartino acknowledged the work that Dr. Serino and her administrators have done on all of this. Dr. Serino explained that they have been learning, anticipating, identifying problems, planning and re-planning and are now moving into action which is energizing for them. She reiterated that the length of time from when they left school to the time they will re-enter is almost an entire school year.

Mr. Moore asked for an update on agreements with the unions. Dr. Serino explained that they are in the process of negotiations and are very close to finalizing the agreement with the teachers and hope to have that completed by Friday. Informal conversations have begun with the support staff. Dr. Serino felt that it would be a good idea for the board to review and/or approve the MOAs as they are finalized.

Mr. Moore also felt that there will be very little in the form of music performances, with most of it being instruction. Dr. Serino explained that she will share all of the addendums with the board.

Dr. Serino expects to be able to finalize the district's mask approach by next week and guidelines that will go into the reopening document. They also anticipate the criteria by which decisions will be made about an entire cohort leaving the building or closing a building for a designated period of time.

Fall athletics discussion

Mr. Moore reviewed that there has been a lot of discussion on this subject and some schools have canceled their fall sports, including New Haven and Bridgeport.

Mr. Yamartino read a resolution regarding high school interscholastic sports for the fall of 2020, in consideration of the impact of COVID-19 and the safety of student athletes and all students. The Department of Public had send a letter on August 13, 2020 to the CAS/CIAC recommending the delayed start of interscholastic sports until two weeks following in-person school opening and recommending limiting the number of games and use of locker rooms. They also recommended schools consider low-risk and moderate-risk sports (cross country, swimming and soccer) with proper strategies in place. DPH also recommended girls' volleyball be postponed or canceled and football be canceled or postponed. Mr. Yamartino also mentioned that the CIAC football committee voted 9-1 to postpone football to the spring. Mr. Yamartino would recommend that girls' volleyball and football be postponed until the spring.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, that RSD 13 Board of Education adopt a resolution that supports the current recommendations of the State Department of Public Health be followed and further recommend that the Superintendent of Schools delay the start of interscholastic sports for a period following of the start of in-person school, per the DPH recommendations.

Mrs. Petrella felt that there may be additional recommendations or changes when the CIAC and DPH meet again tomorrow and didn't understand why the board wouldn't wait to see what they come up with. Mr. Yamartino felt that this motion would let everyone know that this board agrees with the recommendations made by the DPH and not by the CIAC. Mrs. Petrella stated that she wasn't ready to do that without hearing what further information may become available.

Dr. Friedrich asked what Mr. Yamartino meant by the "current" recommendations and Mr. Yamartino explained that he supports the recommendations that were sent on August 13th and this motion would state that the board is in support of those recommendations, but he would be open to further discussion if DPH changes their recommendations. Dr. Friedrich agrees that the district should be governed by DPH recommendations, not CIAC recommendations and would be 100 percent in favor of a motion supporting that.

Mrs. Caramanello was confused about why a motion is necessary at all when DPH and the CIAC are meeting tomorrow. Dr. Taylor felt that this is more of a statement of the district's support of DPH's current position, but doesn't commit to anything. Mr. Hicks agreed and felt that resolutions are typically non-binding. Dr. Friedrich was concerned that the wording of the motion sounded as if they would be committed to, for example, not having football even if DPH figures out a way to do it. He suggested a statement that says the district expects to follow the recommendations of DPH would be pretty straightforward and wouldn't commit to anything in particular.

Mr. Yamartino asked if Dr. Friedrich would be willing to follow any DPH recommendations without further discussion. He explained that he used the word current so that if DPH changed their position, the district would have the opportunity to discuss it. Dr. Friedrich felt that the statement that the district expects to follow DPH guidelines is enough ammunition.

Mrs. Petrella added that she certainly supports DPH guidelines, but that doesn't mean she would completely agree with their final recommendations. She does not feel that DPH needs support from the district and they will continue to make decisions that they feel are in the best interest of public health. Mr. Roraback agreed and felt that it was still a very fluid situation. He felt that this motion would give student athletes and their parents the idea that the board is already making the decision. He does not feel that now is the time for such a motion and Dr. Friedrich felt that that was a fair point.

Mrs. Booth asked if the teams have stopped practicing and conditioning and Dr. Serino explained that it never started and has been postponed until August 24th. Mrs. Booth felt that the motion was not saying they would not have football or volleyball, but that the DPH was recommending those sports be postponed or canceled and they are in support of that. Mr. Yamartino agreed and reread the resolution. Mr. Yamartino felt that it was important that this board sends a message that they feel that the CIAC should be following DPH recommendations.

Mrs. Geraci agreed that the board should vote to follow DPH recommendations and it would be in the best interest of the students to do so. Mr. Hicks added that this decision is not the board's to make and

this would actually be only a recommendation. Mr. Moore added that if anything changes because of the DPH/CIAC meeting tomorrow, they can hold an emergency meeting to address those changes.

Dr. Serino reminded everyone that the CIAC has asked DPH to come to the table tomorrow night and she felt that they will take the health, safety and well-being of the student athletes very seriously. She does feel it is important to hear what happens at tomorrow's meeting and is in support of the direction the board is taking tonight. Dr. Friedrich felt that it is important for the constituents to know that the board made a decision after the DPH/CIAC meeting and not before. He felt that anything that looks like a decision will be interpreted as one and will be felt to be premature. Dr. Friedrich suggested that the board wait until Friday and added that if CIAC does not agree with DPH, the district can then make a clear choice at that time.

Mr. Yamartino felt that if the board adopts this resolution now, it will send a message to DPH and the CIAC as to which course of action to take. Dr. Friedrich felt that most constituents would not understand that intent and instead hear a decision in advance of the process being played out. Mr. Yamartino hoped that the constituents would be bright enough to understand the intention and that the district should take a stand. Dr. Taylor agreed.

Mrs. Caramanella still had too many questions to make a decision. She felt that a lot of students are relying on a sports season for scholarships. She is also uncomfortable with postponement until they know if everyone will postpone. Mrs. Caramanella does agree that the district should follow DPH guidelines, but she would want to make sure those guidelines are followed for everything, including music. She suggested that the board sends an email to DPH to express support and explain the dilemma that they are in currently. Mr. Yamartino felt that the resolution would, in fact, be that email.

Mrs. Petrella felt that the board unanimously feels that the DPH recommendations are critical, but many members are not sure of the intent of the resolution. Mrs. Petrella hoped that they could accomplish the same thing without a formal resolution. She asked if the board could hold off for another day and then vote on specifics. Dr. Friedrich added that DPH may take more time to respond to the meeting.

Mrs. Booth is concerned because practice is slated to start on Monday and believes that Mr. Yamartino is just asking the board to state that they support DPH.

Mr. Moore suggested they amend the resolution to state that the district supports the Department of Public Health to the best of their ability. Mr. Moore asked if practice is set to start on Monday or if it will be just conditioning. Dr. Serino stated that all sanctioned conditioning has stopped. She then received a message from Mr. Petronio that only football is scheduled to start on Monday and all other sports on Thursday. She also felt that sports would be put off again if a definitive decision isn't made tomorrow or Friday. Mrs. Caramanella added that the kids and coaches just want to know if they will have a season or not. Mr. Yamartino noted that some districts have already canceled fall sports. Dr. Serino explained that official practices are supposed to start on the 24th, but she can't imagine that will happen unless a final decision is made. Dr. Serino does believe that the people at CIAC are trying to keep the best interest of the kids in mind and will want to make a decision that is final. Mrs. Caramanella also suggested that the district can make the decision to hold off on conditioning and practices on the 24th until a final decision is made.

DPH is suggesting no athletic activities in the first two weeks of school and Dr. Friedrich does believe that the board should commit to that. He felt that that would apply to school-organized practices, not captains' practices.

Mrs. Petrella liked the idea of modifying the original motion to be less specific, but offer support to the DPH.

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to amend the motion to that the Board of RSD 13 expects to follow, as much as is possible, the recommendations of the Connecticut Department of Public Health concerning school athletic programs, just as it expects to follow, as much as possible, DPH recommendations for other aspects of school programs.

Dr. Taylor stated he would not be in favor of amending the motion. Mr. Hicks felt that the wording of the amendment says that the board is making a decision and that is not the case. Dr. Serino felt that the original concern had been about football (a contact sport) and that it would put those students at risk and could also put other students and the community at risk. There had not been a lot of discussion about other sports. Dr. Serino is in agreement with the comments made about football being risky to students and with DPH's recommendations around football. She does feel that it is important to discuss this, but the intent of the discussion was about football. Dr. Serino felt that the board wanted to go on record that they believe the district should follow DPH recommendations for football and she agrees with that.

Dr. Taylor clarified that his position is for all contact sports that can't follow distancing or mask recommendations and Dr. Friedrich agreed. Mrs. Caramanello could not support something that picks one sport over another, though she does feel that the district should support DPH guidelines. Mr. Yamartino explained that DPH covered all of the fall sports with a set of recommendations that he would like to publicly endorse.

Dr. Friedrich withdrew his motion to amend the original motion and Mrs. Petrella agreed to withdraw.

Mr. Hicks suggested that the vote on the original motion be taken by roll call. Mr. Yamartino was asked to reread the resolution which is as follows: *Resolution of the RSD 13 Board of Education in the matter of the conduct of high school interscholastic sports for the fall of 2020. In consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on the safety of student athletes and all students, the Board of Education, in consideration of the following: whereas the State Department of Public Health, in their letter of August 13, 2020 to the Executive Director of CAS/CIAC, recommended the delayed start of interscholastic sports until two weeks following in-person school opening. And whereas the State Department of Public Health recommended limiting the number of games and the use of locker rooms. And whereas the State Department of Public Health recommended schools consider the conducting of low-risk and moderate-risk as defined by the National Federation of State High School Associations and Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, with proper education in mitigation strategies in place which include boys and girls cross country, girls swimming and boys and girls soccer. And whereas the State Department of Public Health recommended that the indoor moderate risk of girls' volleyball be postponed or canceled. And whereas the State Department of Public Health recommended that the higher risk of football be canceled or postponed. And whereas the football committee of the CIAC voted 9-1 to postpone football until the spring. And therefore, the Regional School District Board of Education supports that current recommendations of the State Department of Public Health be followed and further recommends that the superintendent of schools delay the start of interscholastic sports per DPH recommendations for a period following the*

start of in-person school and that boys and girls cross country and girls swimming and boys and girls soccer begin this fall after careful mitigation and education practices are in place and further, that football and girls volleyball be postponed until the spring term.

In favor of RSD 13 Board of Education adopting a resolution that supports the current recommendations of the State Department of Public Health be followed and further recommend that the Superintendent of Schools delay the start of interscholastic sports for a period following of the start of in-person school, per the DPH recommendations: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Against: Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Abstain: Mrs. Caramanello. Motion carried, with six ayes, three nays and one abstention.

Mr. Moore will call another meeting, depending upon the action of the Department of Public Health tomorrow.

Dr. Serino apologized for misrepresenting the board's general feeling being about football when it was really all contact sports. Dr. Serino added that she had also asked if any spring sports could be moved to the fall and they cannot.

Mrs. Petrella asked what liability the schools would have if someone contracts the virus and Dr. Serino stated there is some language about liability and it is actually less than what you might imagine. She will forward the exact language on that.

Dr. Serino also updated the board that Brewster will have 13 students for Pre-K who will attend hybrid, three have chosen remote. Kindergarten will have 43 students in and 12 students out. First grade will have 48 students in and 10 out. Grade two will have 48 in and 8 out. At John Lyman, kindergarten will have 27 students in and one out. Grade one will have 27 students in and four out. Grade two will have 28 students in and five out. Grade three will have 25 students in and four students out. Grade four will have 32 students in and five out. At Memorial, grade three will have 35 students in and seven out. Grade four will have 38 students in and five out. Grade five will have 69 students in and six out. At Strong School, sixth grade will have 71 students in and 10 out. Seventh grade will have 61 students in and 10 out. Eighth grade will have 91 students in and 12 out. At Cuginchaug, they have only heard from 64 students in grade nine, with 61 in and 10 opting out. Tenth grade has 71 students in and 28 out. Eleventh grade only has responses from 67 students, with 57 in and 10 out. Grade 12 has 86 students in and eight out.

Dr. Serino hopes to have breakdowns of number of students in cohorts and remote groups by next Wednesday.

Vote to amend calendar to make September 25, 2020 a school day

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to make September 25, 2020 a school day.

In favor of making September 25, 2020 a school day: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Committee Reports**A. Policy Committee**

Mr. Hicks reported that the Policy Committee met tonight and discussed a new policy regarding child sexual abuse and assault and the reporting procedure along with that. It is a rather detailed policy and the committee will take a closer look at that at their next meeting.

Mr. Hicks talked with Shipman and Goodwin and they do not have a mask policy. The committee will do more research on that policy. They are also working on a checklist of policies that they received from Shipman and Goodwin.

Dr. Taylor wondered if a mask policy was really necessary since the state has come out with a detailed policy about that issue. Mr. Hicks stated that the attorneys were working on that and agreed that it is not absolutely essential to have a mask policy however it is important that the information be carefully conveyed to parents and students.

Communications

Mr. Moore had received a letter from Nick Faiella about waiting for the decision on sports. He received another email asking for the board to wait for a decision from the CIAC. David Johnson and Michelle DiMauro asked the board to consider delaying everything until the spring. He also received an email from Michelle DiMauro asking them to wait until tomorrow.

There had been a great number of communications from other board chairs, including the desire to have in-person meetings or not. Mr. Moore has talked with Mr. Pietrasko about how to have in-person meetings, but still allow the public to view it remotely. He would also like to talk about going back to monthly, rather than weekly, meetings once school starts.

Mrs. Petrella has enjoyed meeting frequently and feels that they have really kept up-to-date. She thought that maybe they could meet a couple of times in September. Mr. Roraback encouraged brevity and convenience as part of the meetings because the administrators have to prepare long and hard for the meetings and he would rather them put that effort into actual operations.

Mr. Moore suggested going back to the regular meeting schedule with special meetings being called as Dr. Serino needs.

Mr. Hicks attended a webinar about returning back to school yesterday, with part two being tomorrow about special needs children. He suggested other board members attend.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Dr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mrs. Geraci, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First

Public Comment Received Via Email

From: Beth Grant
Date: August 19, 2020 at 7:39:15 PM EDT
To: rmoore@rsd13.org
Subject: Concerned parent of student athlete

Board Members,

I have two children that were/are enrolled in District 13. Our first son just graduated and our other son is an incoming Freshman. Both boys are 3 sport student athletes.

After reading the minutes from the last meeting I see Football mentioned repeatedly. Why?!

Listening to your meeting tonight about the research on band that you went over. Hope the same effort is put into option for sports. They are currently working on masks for football players to attach to helmets. Where is the research on football if that is the sport getting picked on. What schools in our division have cancelled football? No proof of that statement.

Football always makes the top of the list even though injuries including concussions are less than all the other sports. It would be a disservice to the student athletes to take away just football in the fall. It's all activities inc band and chorus or nothing! Simply not justified to cancel one sport. I'm tired of hearing how dangerous football is. Seems as though this is not about COVID19 it's just the continuous agenda to rid District 13 of football. Band would be kids blowing out potentially infected droplets into the air. So there is no way that's safe. I see cross country kids running hip to hip down the sidewalk on Main Street. Soccer is a contact sport more position by position vs football.

Leave the fall sports and other activities alone. Parents will not put their kids in the activities if they feel a risk. Let us decide.

Would be nice if this was not voted on before CIAC makes their ruling. But seems like this is a sneaky move again.

Emails on the opposition being read after vote...

Thank you the board members who expressed opposition.

Beth Grant

From: Michelle DiMauro

Date: August 19, 2020 at 6:09:32 PM EDT

To: kveronesi@rsd13.org, rmoore@rsd13.org, nhicks@rsd13.org, cgeraci@rsd13.org, mbooth@rsd13.org, mcaramanello@rsd13.org, vfriedrich@rsd13.org, lpetrella@rsd13.org, R Andrew Taylor <ataylor@rsd13.org>, Robert Yamartino <ryamartino@rsd13.org>, James Roraback <jroraback@rsd13.org>

Cc: Todd Petronio <tpetronio@rsd13.org>

Subject: Re: Public comment, fall sports

Good evening again,

I strongly agree with the caller who suggested the Board defer the vote on fall 2020 sports until the CIAC decision next week. In reviewing the minutes, it would be advantageous to align the district with the CIAC and not focus on one particular fall sport.

Thanks you.

Michelle DIMauro Murphy

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2020, at 5:32 PM, Michelle DiMauro wrote:

Good afternoon,

I hope you and your families remain healthy and safe during this challenging time.

At this time, I respectfully request the Board strongly consider moving fall sports to the spring of 2021. It is unfortunate that the CIAC choose to defer their decision until next week, the week of August 24. In an effort for RSD13 to continue to support students, athletes and athletic programs, and acknowledge the current health situation, I am hopeful the Board will vote to move fall 2020 sports to the spring.

This decision is safest for all and allows student athletes the opportunity to feel supported, appreciated and provides hope to participate in their fall sport moving forward.

Thank you for your continued efforts and thoughtful consideration when voting on the future of fall 2020 sports.

Sincerely

Michelle DIMauro Murphy

From: David Johnson
Date: August 19, 2020 at 5:08:40 PM EDT
To: rmoore@rsd13.org
Subject: Fall sports

Please don't make any decision on fall sports until CIAC makes their decision

From: Matt Garretson
Date: August 19, 2020 at 4:07:09 PM EDT
To: "rmoore@rsd13.org" <rmoore@rsd13.org>, "nhicks@rsd13.org" <nhicks@rsd13.org>, "cgeraci@rsd13.org" <cgeraci@rsd13.org>, "mbooth@rsd13.org" <mbooth@rsd13.org>, "mcaramanello@rsd13.org" <mcaramanello@rsd13.org>, "vfriedrich@rsd13.org" <vfriedrich@rsd13.org>, "ryamartino@rsd13.org" <ryamartino@rsd13.org>, "ataylor@rsd13.org" <ataylor@rsd13.org>, "jroraback@rsd13.org" <jroraback@rsd13.org>, "lpetrella@rsd13.org" <lpetrella@rsd13.org>
Subject: Fall sports
Reply-To:

To current RSD13 board of Education Members,

My family would like to voice our concern regarding the impending vote on the future of this years fall sports season. In reading the minutes from the last board meeting, it is evident that there is an inherent bias against football. We understand no one expected to be in this situation and having to make such difficult decisions. We ask that you not make any decision regarding the cancellation of fall sports, specifically football and volleyball as those seem to be the most targeted, until the CIAC has made its official recommendation. These kids have put years of hard work in and deserve at least that. A decision to eliminate fall sports now does not afford them the opportunity to play in the spring should the CIAC make that decision.

As parents of a high school senior that is hoping to further his education with help through athletic recruitment, complete cancellation of the season would be detrimental. If you are making the extra effort to assure that both band and chorus can continue to meet the safety guidelines in place when school returns (as stated in meeting minutes), we feel that the sports programs in jeopardy of being totally canceled deserve the same respect.

We thank you for your consideration

The Garretson's