

To: ND High School Activities Association Board and Sherm Sylling,

I am writing this letter in support of Scranton School Board's decision to form a new co-op with Hettinger High School and to dissolve the co-op with Bowman High School.

As a parent of a young man involved in the football co-op, it is important to me to have communication and safety for him. It is important to him to have identity/recognition and belonging as a team member.

I feel that Hettinger has expressed a more open-minded approach to giving athletes the identity and recognition that is important to them, by incorporating Scranton School colors and name for uniforms, equipment and team name. For example the new co-op name would be the Hettinger-Scranton (team mascot yet to be decided upon co-op of all sports).

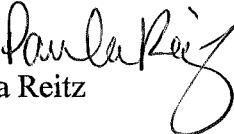
Hettinger has also expressed a cooperative attitude in where the games will be played by scheduling some home games in Scranton, and realize the benefit of this to the program. My son thinks it would be great to play at the Scranton football field. He gets fired up just talking about it! That school spirit would carry over into the games and the athlete's performance. The current co-op has failed to acknowledge how this would benefit the program. I feel that a home football game brings a sense of pride to the whole community and pulls the community together. The current situation has caused some hard feelings among the communities that may have been avoided if there was more of a cooperative effort between the schools.

It is important to me to be informed of meetings and to be allowed to participate in them. Communication is necessary to feel a part of the program. Parents have not always been informed of meetings in the current co-op.

Last, and probably most important to me is my son's safety. He is currently a 130# sophomore playing varsity football against 180-250# seniors. I don't feel the athlete's safety is a major consideration in the current co-op situation. It comes down to playing in an appropriate class, and (from what I understand) due to numbers, the current co-op is in a division out of their league of competition.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,


Paula Reitz

