



Ellendale Public School

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Monday, January 13, 2014

NDHSAA

Mr. Sherm Sylling & NDHSAA Board
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

Mr. Sylling & NDHSAA Board:

We are asking for your consideration in changing the formula used to determine divisions for football. We would recommend elimination of the inclusion of Hutterite students. The consideration would affect five teams that have Hutterite colonies including Ellendale/E-K.

We believe Hutterite students should not be counted for the following reasons:

History of Participation: In an email survey to schools Hutterite populations, when asked "Over the course of the last 10 years, how many Hutterite students have participated in football?" The answer was none. So, they have a poorer participation level than student in high poverty schools.

Culture: The Hutterite culture is not against sport. However, they do not believe it is appropriate to send their children outside the colony for these purposes. I have enclosed a letter from Mr. Cornelius Hofer, the German teacher at the Maple River Colony explaining their beliefs on this matter.

Withdrawal from Education: We are not arguing that the formula is incorrect when it counts students in grades 7-10. However, it does not represent the true participation of Hutterite students that withdraw from school at the age of 16. With only the rarest exception all students both male and female will withdraw on their birthday and not take part in high school. This reinforces why they should not be counted for varsity football.

Why is this an issue for Ellendale now, when it has not been in the past? I believe you already understand the divisions and where E/EK will find itself based on the projected counts. The removal of our 8 Hutterite students would drop us solidly into 11A which we support. However, we hesitate to support moving to 11AA when our real participation numbers do not include the possibility of Hutterite students ever helping our program.

We will not present a problem to you without a solution. We present you with three options for your consideration:

- Remove all Hutterite boys from the count.
- Create an appeals process, similar to what is already being done in other states to remove these students from the count. SDHSAA has a process for this which is enclosed.

Continued

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER


The Ellendale School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, or handicap in its educational program, activities, and employment practices.

- Count Hutterite boys using a factor. However, we would argue that .60 is too high for this group. It would seem reasonable, since they have no history of ever participating, that their factor should be below .30. This would allow the NDHSAA to maintain that a complete elimination is not acceptable but also provide some relief to those schools with Hutterite populations.

If you have any questions on this matter please feel free to contact us at 701-349-3232.

Respectfully,


Jeff G. Fastnacht, Supt


Matt Herman, AD

Hi Jeff Fastnacht

We at Maple River Colony believe that our children should grow up in the safety and security of our colony. We believe that God has given us the divine privilege and responsibility to safeguard our children and see to it that they are sheltered from the evils of the outside world. With this in mind, we have made an agreement with the government that they should send teachers out to our colony to instruct our children right here where we live. We will provide the school building and the government will provide the teachers.

Some families outside the colony may see value in sending their children to participate in extracurricular activities such as learning musical instruments or playing sports. We believe that our children should make music for the purpose of worshiping God, but they should do so by using their own voice as instruments rather than using wood or stone. Jesus said in Luke 19:40 I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. That is if his people failed to worship him, the stones (Heathen) would cry out. We would never want that to be the case, so we encourage our children to use their voices to worship God rather than to learn to play instruments made of such things.

1 Maccabees Chapter 1

12. In those days certain renegades came out from Israel and misled many, saying, Let us go and make a covenant with the Gentiles around us, for since we separated from them many disasters have come upon us.

13. This proposal pleased them,

14. and some of the people eagerly went to the king, who authorized them to observe the ordinances of the Gentiles.

15. So they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, according to Gentile custom,

16. and removed the marks of circumcision, and abandoned the holy covenant. They joined with the Gentiles and sold themselves to do evil.

And from this we want to become Wise.

Some families outside the colony believe that their children need to participate in sports so that they can learn how to work as a team and build physical strength. Our children have been working in the garden since they were very young. They have learned the importance of respecting their elders and doing their share from a very young age. Garden work naturally allows the children to build their muscles and it builds their self-esteem because they understand that their help contributes to the welfare of the colony. They take pride in a job well done and they know that they are needed.

By the time the children outside the colony might begin playing sports that would allow them to travel to distant towns to compete, our children are learning the trade that they will use to provide for their families when they become adults.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." It is our position that we must have our children with us in order to follow God's commands to teach them in the way that they should go.

Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way that he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it."

We believe we are meeting the needs of our children to gain physical strength and learn to work as a team right here at the colony, but more importantly, we believe we are fulfilling our duty as parents in the most sacred responsibility given to mankind: raising up a generation who will follow God. We believe that by raising up a generation that follows God we are also raising good citizens who obey the law, are kind to others, and who are productive members of society.

This is the basis of what the educational system wants for all students who attend school.

Cornelius
Hofer

SOUTH DAKOTA

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION



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Telephone: 605-224-9261 – Fax: 224-9262

Wayne Carney
Executive Director

Classification Appeal:

- 1) In alignment years, the Board of Directors may grant adjustments to the current classification formulas. In alignment years, requests for a classification appeal in the sport of football must be made two (2) weeks prior (**December 26, 2012**) to the January meeting of the Board of Directors. (**January 9, 2013**) Letters of appeal in all other activities sponsored by the SDHSAA shall be sent to the SDHSAA office two weeks prior (**February 13, 2013**) to the February meeting of the Board of Directors. (**February 27, 2013**) No supporting materials will be accepted following deadline dates.

Basis for Appeal:

- 1) A school may appeal to change classification if it feels its classification is unjust.
- 2) The burden of providing evidence in support of the appeal is on the appealing school. The weight given to any particular criteria is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. No supporting materials will be accepted following deadline dates.
- 3) Should an appeal be granted, the appeal would apply for one alignment cycle only.

Timeline:

- 1) SDHSAA office receives ADM's from DOE on January 15, 2013.
- 2) Requests for a classification appeal in the sport of football must be made two (2) weeks prior (**December 26, 2012**) to the January meeting of the Board of Directors. (**January 9, 2013**) Letters of appeal in all other activities sponsored by the SDHSAA shall be sent to the SDHSAA office two weeks prior (**February 13, 2013**) to the February meeting of the Board of Directors. (**February 27, 2013**) No supporting materials will be accepted following deadline dates.
- 3) Appeal adoption/denial decisions in the sport of football shall be made at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. (**January 9, 2013**) Appeal adoption/denial decisions in all other activities sponsored by the SDHSAA shall be made at the February meeting of the Board of Directors. (**February 27, 2013**)
- 4) Alignment proposals shall be sent to SDHSAA member schools prior to February 15.
- 5) Formal alignment adoptions to be made during the February meeting of the Board of Directors. (**February 27, 2013**)

Member schools may appeal classifications in all activities, athletic and fine arts, sponsored by the SDHSAA.

w/2013 class appeal