

On Apr 29, 2015, at 1:02 PM, Matt Geiger <mgeigerconstruction@gmail.com> wrote:

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Dear NDHSAA,

As a retired educator, a former principal of both Bismarck High School and Century High School as well as a former Bismarck School Board member, I have long believed that a school's activity program is part of the curriculum – and if not, the program should not exist nor should it be funded by the school district. Our job as parents and educators is to encourage young people to find their place in a very complex world; and if kids work hard and are good citizens, that world can be theirs. That is why I am so supportive of school activity programs.

There are programs outside the school for which I am equally supportive: community music, YMCA, ICU, AAU, chess club, church, art and theatre...to name a few. We have students in community music with the same director as they have in school; and yes, they are **coached**. And just as a math or science association would not object if a student wanted to participate in an outside-the-school math or science club or competition in April or May (even if the advisor was that student's home school teacher), why would anyone object to a student athlete doing the same. I would question if it was a matter of the student's best interest or some so-called "rival" program or coach's self-interest. What are we, supposedly, all about?

I have been watching with horror the situation in Baltimore. Hundreds of high school students putting themselves in a dark place by looting, harassing police, setting fires to buildings, and just being thugs. That can happen anywhere if kids do not have an outlet for their positive self-interests and desires...whether that be school or outside school activities/programs. WHY WOULD ANY EDUCATOR... ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE WELL-BEING OF KIDS DISAGREE?

It is time to set aside an antiquated NDHSAA rule!

Let's cut the foolishness and remember why we are in the business of young people...it is not to limit them... but to help them succeed.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Geiger