

March 9, 2016

NDHSAA  
P.O. Box 817  
Valley City, ND 58072-3047

**Subject: Appeal letter and emergency co-op request**

Dear Members of the NDHSAA Board,

This is in reference to your letter dated March 7, 2016 to inform me that the request to dissolve the co-op between New England and Dickinson Trinity has been rejected due to the reason stated below:

1. Dissolution request does not fall within the approved timelines for co-op dissolutions.
2. If the dissolution is approved, we would like to request an emergency co-op with Mott/Regent

We humbly request you to reconsider our request for dissolution. With due respect, I want to state that I have some points to support our appeal:

1. At the request of Dickinson Trinity, administration from New England and Dickinson Trinity met on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 to discuss the co-op between the two schools. Administration from Dickinson Trinity asked us how we felt the co-op went this past year. We stated the co-op has been very successful and beneficial to our students and we were happy to have been able to contribute to the success of the program. We also stated we knew there were some concerns that needed to be addressed; however, we thought they could be worked out to make the co-op even more successful in the future. We asked Dickinson Trinity how they thought the program was going and they stated they felt the co-op was "unhealthy" and they would like to dissolve the co-op effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. They also stated they were planning on moving down to Class "A" in the next football plan and our enrollment numbers would keep them in Class "AA". Additionally, administration from Dickinson Trinity wanted to discuss the current track co-op and would be getting back to us with their decision on whether or not they wanted to continue with the track co-op.

On January 29, 2016 Administration from Dickinson Trinity called our Athletic Director, Mr. Jung, but Mr. Jung was out of town. Monday, February 1, 2016, Mr. Jung called Steve Glasser to see what decision Dickinson Trinity had made concerning the track co-op. Mr. Glasser stated the track co-op could remain in effect for the current school year. Mr. Jung then informed New England administration of this decision.

On Tuesday, February 16, 2016 I called Steve Glasser and asked him if Dickinson Trinity had sent in their letter requesting to dissolve the football co-op and he informed me that he was going to send it in by the end of the week. I also informed him that New England had decided to start our own program effective immediately.

Upon hearing Dickinson Trinity's decision to effectively dissolve the football co-op, we contacted the NDHSAA about our options to find a football program for our student/athletes. On Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, New England met with the Mott/Regent School Board to discuss a cooperative agreement for the new football plan. The Mott/Regent School Board voted unanimously in favor of the co-op. Because Dickinson Trinity wanted to dissolve the co-op for the upcoming school year an emergency co-op was also approved by both Mott/Regent and New England School Boards.

2. Our student/athletes are in a very difficult and challenging situation. Because of the decision made by Dickinson Trinity we needed to find another option for our student/athletes and Mott/Regent was supportive in our efforts. It is important to remember, Dickinson Trinity called the meeting and they were the ones that decided to dissolve the football co-op effective immediately. If the NDHSAA does not approve the dissolution, our student/athletes would be forced to play in a program that does not want them. Would you want to send your children somewhere where they weren't wanted? Will they receive the attention they deserve? As a coach, would you play a player with equal talent when you know they won't be there next year? Our children are our greatest assets – isn't that why we are all in the business of working with children?
3. Dickinson Trinity is aware of the fact they would have to play Class "AA" football for one more year and they are all right with playing without our six student/athletes next year. Furthermore, we have discussed the possibility of our student/athletes playing with Mott/Regent next year with each of the teams in Region 5 and each of the teams in Region 5 are in support of our efforts to continue with the dissolution and proceed with an emergency co-op with Mott/Regent for the upcoming football year. Letters from Beach, Grant County, New Salem, Richardton/Taylor, Bowman and Hettinger/Scranton supporting our efforts will be forthcoming.
4. Once again, we need to emphasize the fact that Dickinson Trinity wanted to dissolve the co-op. For the past ten years, our co-op with Dickinson Trinity had been very successful and beneficial for our students. It is our hope to establish a strong relationship with another program for several years to come. We looked at our options and entered into discussions with Mott/Regent and feel very confident we can establish a long-term cooperative agreement with them like we did with Dickinson Trinity. It was not our decision to dissolve the co-op; this decision came from Dickinson Trinity. We do, however, agree with Dickinson Trinity and feel it is in both of our schools best interest to dissolve the football co-op effective immediately.

On behalf of the reasons we have provided, and for the sake of our students, we humbly request you to reconsider our application to dissolve the co-op between Dickinson Trinity and New England and approve an emergency co-op with Mott/Regent.

Best regards,



Kelly Koppinger  
Superintendent, New England Public School