

September 23, 2019

Dear Parents,

Last Wednesday I was notified of a fundraising opportunity that was in process for Friday night's football game. This fundraiser included the sale of sandwiches from a national restaurant chain. As I investigated the issue with other members of the district administration, several concerns arose. These included:

- The fundraiser was pitched to football coaches at a Section I meeting in February. The restaurant offered to donate the food at no cost to the team, with all proceeds going towards the football program. There are two issues with this. The first, this type of activity falls outside the scope of acceptable activity at such coaches meetings. The second is whether such activity violates the Commissioner's Regulations which prohibit commercial promotional activity on school grounds.
- In this case, it is well documented that the company's CEO has been outspoken on social issues which impact the LGBTQ community. Given such, additional policies and procedures must be reviewed prior to entering into any arrangement for the sale of the company's product on school grounds in order to maintain an appropriate educational environment.

With these concerns in mind I asked Mr. Salumn, our Director of Athletics, to take the necessary steps to cancel the fundraiser.

I have communicated my concerns for how this fundraiser came to be presented to area coaches to representatives of the Executive Board of Section I Athletics. I am also in the process of reviewing our procedures for fundraising with our administrative staff in an effort to mitigate the potential for future issues to arise.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me or Mr. Salumn.

Sincerely,  
Philip Benante, Ed. D.