

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 6

98 WAMOGO ROAD

LITCHFIELD, CT 06759-3204

860.567.7400 ~ 860.567.6652 (FAX)

SERVING THE TOWNS OF WARREN, MORRIS AND GOSHEN



May 17, 2018

Dear CIAC Boys Basketball Committee,

Last week you unveiled a new set of divisions for the 2018-2019 season. According to all indications, it was a process based on a mathematical formula and seeking to maintain competitive balance across equalized divisions. You took into account previous win-loss records, post-season success, and schools of choice. This letter is not to debate the merits of your work.

As the Superintendent of Regional School District 6, I was among the many surprised to see WAMOGO moved up two divisions. As a fan of high school sports, and particularly the work of our boys program, it was not a surprise to see movement out of Division V based on recent success. We acknowledge that WAMOGO is a school of choice and has a proud history with an award-winning Agriculture Science Technology Education Center. It is essential to note that we have never won a boy's basketball state championship in nearly 70 years.

What I find difficult in the announcement by the committee was the statement that no appeals will be heard. You have, as the only governing body of high school sports, found a way to make this decision absolute.

In every process we must acknowledge that it is possible for adults, or a committee, to make mistakes. Even if a mistake was not made, one can see the value in verifying work beyond a declaration. We have all seen decisions on courts, or fields of play, where outcomes required an appeal. It is not uncommon for a referee, an umpire, or an official, to ask for assistance as they would rather make the correct call than jeopardize a final outcome. Additionally, we all have seen countless decisions in education that required an appeal to a higher level. This is a regular part of the process in life to ensure that fairness, the right outcome, let alone competitive balance, is truly achieved.

So one must ask why there is not an option to appeal? Is it a refusal of public justification of the work? Is this preventing ownership that a mistake might have been made? There is no valid reason why a school should not be granted an appeal. You are the group that sets

Regional School District No. 6 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title IX Contact – Debra DeLisle
98 Wamogo Road, Litchfield, CT 06759
860.567.7400

Section 504 Contact – Debra Foley
98 Wamogo Road, Litchfield, CT 06759
860.567.6642

standards, rules, and collects fees. If the process is 100% accurate then it can stand the test of a question, or two. There is nothing to lose but transparent conversation.

As it is May there is still the time to be open-minded and fair leaders on this topic. There are months before the season tips off and the choice to offer an appeal, like the selection process, is really all yours. Right now our students, the coaches, the teams, and the fans, are just paying participants in your methodology who all have little recourse.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Leone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher G. Leone
Superintendent of Schools