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February 5, 2008

Warren County School District Board of Directors

Co-Curricular Activities Committee:

Kirsten Turfitt – Chairperson

Arthur Stewart

Kimberly Angove

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in regard to the 9th grade boys' basketball program at the Warren Area High School.

The 9th grade program has been defunct financially as far as the school district is concerned for the past 6 years. However, it has been through private funding that the Warren Area High School has been able to keep it going. I wish to continue that. I am hoping that the Warren County School District can be of some assistance in helping me achieve that.

Please consider helping fund the program by paying half the money it costs to have the program. The approximate cost of the program per year is \$5,000; half of that would be \$2,500 per year. The \$2,500 per year would be the amount I am asking that the school district would consider paying. I, among those that wish to continue the program, have no problem trying to raise the remainder of the monies needed. This could be a great joint-effort and a wonderful opportunity for the school board/district and community to work together.

I do, however, understand that the numbers of participants has been an issue. I feel we will have enough numbers to make the program strong, once again, with at least these next 2-4 years of upcoming players. In the event that the numbers drop, I also understand that it would not be feasible for the school district to even have the program and once again, the program would have to find funding on its own. However, at this time, please consider my request.

There are many advantages to having this program:

1. More kids stay involved with an extracurricular activity, thus, less kids “on the streets”, providing an outlet for teens at such a critical age.
2. It builds self-confidence. Going from 8th to 9th grade is a huge enough step especially in sports. This program allows these kids more opportunity and an extra year to grow and prove themselves. This also fits nicely in with the rules of PIAA – since 9th grade is still considered junior high. Easing them into the high school level is more advantageous to the whole program.
3. It would allow more play time and experience for the junior varsity, thus making the program stronger and in addition, leaving less parents to complain to coaches and athletic directors.
4. Gives the 7th and 8th grade players something to look forward to. If they know that they can build their skills and confidence during their extra year, and have a “shot” at playing high school basketball, they will stay with the sport.
5. The program is instrumental in developing these young players for the junior varsity and varsity programs. They get more play time and experience.

With all this said, please, again, I implore you to reinstate the ninth grade program financially. This would be a great opportunity for the school district to work with the community in making a difference for the youth of Warren Area High School and its basketball program overall. We, together, can show the kids we care. No one can lose.

I have put together a plan to raise the funds needed. This would be one of the critical steps in the right direction of building a program and therefore, building a stronger high school team. It would be nice to know that the school board is “on-board” with this project and we won’t have to worry about it financially for quite some time.

Please contact me with any questions and/or concerns you may have. I, along with other parents, would be more than happy to bring this personally to the board.

Very truly yours,

Marlene J. Sandberg

Cc: Jack Werner