



Statement on the Starpoint Varsity Wrestling Team - 2.28.2023

The Starpoint Central School District and its Board of Education would like to briefly address the public comments made at the February 27, 2023 School Board Meeting concerning the Varsity Wrestling Team, as well as a recent news story related to the matter.

First and foremost, the District strictly prohibits any and all forms of bullying and harassment, in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act and applicable District policies. The District actively encourages any student who experiences bullying or harassment to immediately report it so that it can be addressed promptly. But in order to do so, it must be reported and sufficient information needs to be shared so that the District can properly address the matter. There is zero tolerance for such behavior, and this has been and remains a point of emphasis with all District staff and students.

With regard to various comments that were made concerning an alleged lack of action by the District, we remain unable to disclose details concerning the underlying circumstances or any specific action the District has taken. However, the District takes all allegations of inappropriate conduct seriously and wants to assure you that all steps that can be taken under the law up to this point have been taken. We are bound to follow applicable laws and District policies, including Title IX and various confidentiality requirements, with respect to the handling of and investigation into the matter. We have continued to move forward as expeditiously as possible under the circumstances.

While we understand that all of this has caused some individuals to be frustrated by a perceived lack of action or lack of transparency, the District has and will continue to comply with all of its obligations under the law. Securing the cooperation of potential witnesses, for example, is critical to reaching a conclusion as swiftly as possible.

Lastly, it is unfortunate that a lawsuit was recently commenced that discloses certain allegations at issue here. And it is even more unfortunate that despite representations from petitioners' legal counsel that they were supposedly attempting to keep the details confidential, that the lawsuit, or news of its filing, was nonetheless shared with the media

within hours of it being filed. In light of the seriousness of the allegations raised and the privacy of the students involved, the District finds it deplorable that certain individuals have sought to make this into a public spectacle on multiple occasions.

We again ask that everyone please respect the privacy of all individuals involved with the Varsity Wrestling Team. The District and its Board of Education are committed to ensuring that the necessary processes take place and remain steadfast in their commitment to the integrity of those processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.M. Croft", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Sean M. Croft
Superintendent of Schools