

DIRECTOR NO. 1 JENNIFER TUSHKA
DIRECTOR NO. 2 DARRYL DICK
DIRECTOR NO. 3 JOE REED
DIRECTOR NO. 4 JJ SHORTMAN
DIRECTOR NO. 5 TAMRA RUYMANN



SUPERINTENDENT, RICH STALEY
DEAN OF STUDENTS, SCOTT HYDER
BUSINESS MANAGER, TANYA BUNTING
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAWN REED

OAKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 400

POST OFFICE BOX H OAKVILLE, WASHINGTON 98568-0090 DISTRICT OFFICE – 360-273-0171 DISTRICT FAX – 360-858-1359

Dear Oakville Community-

Due to some misinformation being spread around the reasoning of the placement of the busses Friday night, we feel we need to provide the community with some facts. We hope this clarifies for people. If you still have questions, please, give us a call 360-273-0171.

- 1) **Is it about the money?** It has nothing to do with monies received at the gate. The district doesn't make enough at our gate (even if everyone who used to stand on the fence comes in) to pay for a football game. Our gate on Friday night was a little less than \$250. The referees alone cost more than \$500 per night. The district loses money each time we have one of our student contests. The district has and will continue to absorb those costs for our student events. Providing students with opportunities is a priority of the district, as long as we can afford it. The community's passage of our levy last year (Thank you!) has made it so we can continue to provide sports for our students and our community. In fact, we have added to our programs this year with Cross Country for middle school and high school and are bringing back middle school basketball.
- 2) **Why do we charge then?** Charging at games is a District IV and 2B Costal League requirement. The league also sets a minimum rate. If we could get away with not charging our community for the game, we certainly would. Unfortunately, as we want to have opponents from our league to play in our contests, we have to follow their rules.
- 3) **So why the busses then?** We are responsible (and would be held accountable) for everything that occurs on our campus during a student event, parking lot and all. Simply put, this is a safety management issue for us. Last year, prior to us putting the busses out there, there were many inappropriate behaviors we observed and had to deal with from the parking lot. We had patrons swearing at referees and the opposing team. We had people smoking items of various kind (which is illegal on school

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grounds). We had people going out to their cars and partaking in alcohol during the game (also illegal). We observed our students going back and forth between people in the parking lot and the game. This is not safe.

During one particularly tense contest, people from the parking lot created a hostile environment for our opponents as they exited the field, and it created a situation where we had to respond to the other school's administration. This simply is not safe for our student athletes.

- 4) **So why this year?** We put the busses out there last year at the last two of our 5 home football games, and never received a phone call, so we followed suit this year.
- 5) **So why just the busses then?** Actually, we have done a number of management changes for our student contests. Students cannot go down to the playground or play football in the end zones during our contests anymore, as a result of the multiple bullying and fighting issues that have occurred.
- 6) **So why does it all matter?** Because we want our games to be safe. Our kids' and community's safety are our number one priority. There are three administrators at each home football game, and we are responsible for a wide range of activities happening during the contest. We do not take that responsibility lightly.
- 7) **So what about people who cannot afford to attend?** We don't want to deny our community access to the game. If this is going to be a hardship for any family, please get a hold of us prior to or at the game, or at the gate (he or she has a radio to get a hold of the administration), and we'll help make arrangements to get you into our student contests. The district has funds put aside to help cover for our families in need.
- 8) **So what about the elderly and the handicapped?** We will admit we made an oversight in not reserving enough parking spots for our fans who have special needs. We apologize. We will rectify that situation for Thursday night's game. If getting into the facility is a challenge, then please have our

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gate person radio one of the administrators, and we'll provide an alternate route for you to be able to watch our student contests.

- 9) **So what about the weather?** Football is a game played in all elements. Coming to an event at our facility requires some risk around this. Much the same as if you came to a baseball, cross country, or softball contest, the weather elements are a part of the experience.
- 10) **So what about people who were denied access or sent home?** The administration is unaware of any such situation, and would love to hear more. Please contact Mr. Staley, Mr. Hyder, or Mr. Spengler ASAP, so we can be aware of what happened here, and would have the ability to follow up. 360-273-0171.
- 11) **So what about the police getting called?** Again, we are unaware of any such situation. Please contact us if something happened here (360-273-0171). We always ask the Grays Harbor Sherriff to have a presence at our games. Sometimes they show, sometimes they don't. The only time they were called Friday was to assist with the unruliness at the end of the game Friday night and that had more to do with our opponent than our own fans.
- 12) **So what if I am really upset about this?** Awesome! We want your passion to help our school improve. Please call us. 360-273-0171. Ask for Mr. Staley, Mr. Hyder, or Mr. Spengler. We'd love to hear from our Acorn community. We have wanted to engage the community in a conversation around sports for over a year. We have tried on multiple occasions to begin an Oakville Support/Booster/Advisory group since the winter of 2017, and have had very little participation. We want your voice involved in our school! We will post on our Facebook page when our next Booster Meeting will be, very soon.

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