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Like many others, I was disgusted by the repulsive and racist comments made by an announcer with the NFHS Network directed towards members of the Norman Girls Basketball Team prior to their first-round game on Thursday, March 11. To target these young ladies with derogatory and hateful comments based only on their exercise of their free speech rights is cowardly, sickening, and inexcusable. No high school student should be subjected to these types of hateful, ignorant comments from any adult. These thoughts are antithetical to our views in public education that all children should be valued and treated with kindness, equity, and respect. On behalf of Bixby Public Schools, we extend our support to the students and staff of Norman Public Schools who were so terribly disparaged.

Our Bixby Girls anticipate a highly competitive and hard-fought contest with the Norman team tomorrow. Both teams have worked incredibly hard to get to this championship game and are excited to play. This will be a lifetime memory for the girls, coaches, and parents of both teams and I am confident each side will bring their best effort to the game. Yet, when the final buzzer sounds, one team will exit the court victorious and one will not. Regardless of the outcome, I am confident both communities will leave the arena very proud of our young athletes who have represented our respective schools so well and who have brought us so much joy and excitement during this challenging year. Players on both teams should depart with their heads held high, knowing they played their hardest, yet also in the spirit of sportsmanship and mutual respect. This is what high school sports should be about. We look forward to a great game tomorrow!

Rob Miller  
Superintendent