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- We will not add any new sports
- We will accept "Teams of One" from other schools
- We will allow "Teams of One" at other schools in a select scenario:
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 - We no longer offer it because of low numbers
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- We will eliminate a sport offering after two consecutive years of not having sign-ups meet minimum numbers
- We will only bring back a sport that has been eliminated if three criteria are strongly met:
 - o Interested and committed adults/coaches to support and re-build the program
 - Strong student interest across all grade-levels that does significantly more than just meet the minimum number for a team
 - o Demonstration that the return of the sport would have long-term sustainability

These pre-determined decisions do not provide equal opportunity to all students. Students that choose to participate in a team sport are not given the same opportunity to continue to play as those that choose to play a sport that competes as individuals. We are asking that the Board of Education eliminate these predetermined decisions and consider each case/opportunity based on it's own specific/unique situation.

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We are here to Advocate for our child and express our disappointment in the South Lewis district for limiting opportunities for students. I was unaware that here at South Lewis we had a policy limiting sports opportunities for students until last week. I was also shocked by how many other parents and staff were also unaware that this existed and also believe it to be unfair.

I have taught for south Lewis for 20 years and always given 110 percent to each and every child. I have made sure I give them every opportunity for success that I can. I believe my son deserves the same. So to watch my son be denied this great opportunity is very sad. We should want the students of south Lewis to thrive and grow in every direction of interest. Our Mission statement states that we provide a variety of opportunities that recognize and enhance individual strengths and we encourage students to work and reach their maximum potential.

So with that in mind I'd like you to consider this: Drew has been playing hockey since he was 4. For 11 years he has worked hard outside of school to enhance his skill and he has grown to love the sport. For the past 3 years he has been on the ice all year round preparing for the next level, which for him is the varsity level. He is hoping to excel at that level and his dream is to continue at the college level.

If South Lewis can not make an exemption to this unique sport and our unique situation, you are limiting Drew's goals and opportunities for his future. You are also telling him that his passion is not important and all his work is pointless.

I understand that the rules were put in place to help preserve our sports programs. But I don't feel these rules should be hard and fast in applying them to all situations. These rules were created in 2014 and looking at our current sports programs, is appears that this rule is not helping. This past school year we couldn't field a modified soccer team. Small sports numbers persist despite this rule and even more so because of small class sizes. It is also sad to say but not as many kids participate in sports anymore.

I have learned that for Drew to play hockey at the varsity level, South Lewis would need to sign a combination contract, which our sports choose not to allow.

But this is a unique situation and would not affect your existing programs at all. Drew doesn't play a winter sport here at South Lewis, and if denied the right to play hockey will not motivate him to do so. South Lewis isn't losing him to another sport. He plays soccer and baseball for South Lewis, and he gives those sports 100% when he is playing them. In this situation, allowing him to play is allowing opportunities to kids like Drew who have dedicated years of time to growth in a sport.

I have been told a sport was asked to be added when a child wanted to bowl. With bowling I could see how this sport might take kids from other sports programs, because anyone can decide to pick up a bowling ball and join a team and learn the game. Same goes for Lacrosse. You could join a team and learn the game. Hockey is not that way, which means it is not a threat to South Lewis sports programs. And Drew doesn't just want to play hockey, like other students might choose to bowl or play lacrosse. He wants to compete at the highest levels,

playing in college and beyond. A child can not simply decide in high school that they want to play hockey. It doesn't work that way for many reasons:

- You don't just put on skates and get a hockey stick and play hockey. It takes years of practice and dedication to make a varsity hockey team.
- It also is a 6 day a week practice and game schedule that requires over an hour away drive one direction to participate.
- Lastly this team the MV raiders is also a unique team. It is made up of over 13 different section 3 schools that don't offer hockey at their school like ours. It is backed by a lead school but is not a school funded sport. It is parent funded, which means it costs the kids that make the team \$1200 to play. Drew had to try out for this team, and his skill set was determined to be of a high enough level that he made the team. Kids aren't just showing up for this team.

Please consider all that I have shared and please consider and exemption to your sports rule to give Drew and others in the future the chance to excel in a sport he loves and thrives at.

I promise you it will be rare that a child from Lewis County plays at the level to make a varsity hockey team and have the financial support and time it takes to play at this level.

Lastly I want to add that we are the only section 3 school that doesn't combine for sports we don't offer. So if it is decided that there is no way to give Drew this opportunity, then he will attend another local area school next year, where his passion and hard work will be supported. This is not something we want to do because Drew likes South Lewis and enjoys playing soccer and baseball for South Lewis. But he also wants to be able to play varsity Hockey. Here at South Lewis we pride ourselves on doing what is best for students. We are asking you to please do what is best for Drew.

Thanks for your time and I am hoping you can reconsider the policy denying Drew this opportunity because it is a unique situation and will NOT take from South Lewis sports, but actually open up a rare opportunity for a select few if given the chance.

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- We <u>will not</u> combine with any other schools for sports (for sports that we currently offer or sports that we currently do not offer)
- We <u>will not</u> add any new sports
- We will accept "Teams of One" from other schools
- We will allow "Teams of One" at other schools in a select scenario:
 - We have offered the sport in the past
 - o We no longer offer it because of low numbers
 - The student is a Jr. or Sr. who has participated in the sport at our school for at least three years
- We will eliminate a sport offering after two consecutive years of not having sign-ups meet minimum numbers
- We will only bring back a sport that has been eliminated if three criteria are strongly met:
 - o Interested and committed adults/coaches to support and re-build the program
 - Strong student interest across all grade-levels that does significantly more than just meet the minimum number for a team
 - o Demonstration that the return of the sport would have long-term sustainability

These pre-determined decisions do not provide equal opportunity to all students. Students that choose to participate in a team sport are not given the same opportunity to continue to play as those that choose to play a sport that competes as individuals. We are asking that the Board of Education eliminate these predetermined decisions and consider each case/opportunity based on it's own specific/unique situation.

Combining with other schools is not just a way to save programs from elimination, but a way to offer other opportunities and more chances to participate. Consolidation of resources and sharing expenses will save the district funds and sustain reasonable quality athletics.

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Melissa Fox	
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From: Laura DeGuardia laura.timberview@gmail.com @

Subject: SPEAK UP AND SIGN PETITION TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY IN SPORTS.pdf

Date: January 29, 2020 at 10:46 AM
To: Timberview info@timberview.com



SPEAK UP AND SIGN PETITION TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY IN SPORTS

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Please help us show the school board that there is substantial support to eliminate the pre-determined decisions and to consider using combining with schools as a way to maintain and add opportunities for our students.

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Dominion Deaurdy Carpenter rd, twin, NY

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South Lewis Central Schools

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Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent

South Lewis Middle School

P. O. Box 70, East Rd., Turin, NY 13473 315-348-2570, Fax 315-348-2510

Ms. Judith A. Duppert Middle School Principal 315-348-2570

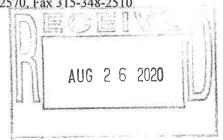
RE:

TO: Board of Education and Mr. Premo

FROM: Judy Duppert & & &

CC: Richard Poniktera DATE: August 26, 2020

Items for Discard



Mrs. Amanda Kogut Guidance Counselor 315-348-2575

I respectfully request to dispose of the following items which are no longer being used in the Middle School:

1. 23 Casio, model fx-300W S-V.P.A.M, scientific calculators