



September 11, 2015

Tom Welter
Executive Director
Ext. 230
tomw@osaa.org

Tom Lovell
Principal
Oregon City High School
19761 S. Beaver Creek Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045

Brad Garrett
Assistant Executive Director
Ext. 229
bradg@osaa.org

RE: Conner Mitchell's Athletic Eligibility

Cindy Simmons
Assistant Executive Director
Ext. 227
cindys@osaa.org

Dear Tom:

The OSAA Eligibility Appeals Board (EAB) met Monday, August 31, 2015 to review the eligibility request waiver of OSAA Rule 8.6.5 *Transfer to a School with Affiliation* for Conner Mitchell, whose athletic eligibility had been denied by the District Athletic Committee of the 6A Mt. Hood Conference. The hearing was conducted at the OSAA office in Wilsonville.

Peter Weber
Assistant Executive Director
Ext. 231
peterw@osaa.org

The Appeals Board reviewed all of the written information that had been submitted on behalf of the student. In addition to the original information received by the District Athletic Committee, the EAB received the DAC's reasoning for the denial, and additional letters with confidential information from Andy Jones, Athletic Director, Oregon City H S and Tom Lovell, Principal, Oregon City H S. During the hearing, the Board listened to comments and testimony by Conner Mitchell, the student; Bryan and Elizabeth Mitchell, the student's parents; Andy Jones, Athletic Director, Oregon City H S; Tom Lovell, Principal, Oregon City H S; and Randy Nyquist, Varsity Football Coach, Oregon City H S. Following the dialogue and questions, the Eligibility Appeals Board convened into executive session.

Kyle Stanfield
Assistant Executive Director
Ext. 239
kyles@osaa.org

From the written documentation submitted and the oral testimony provided at the hearing, the Eligibility Appeals Board concluded the following:

Marci McGillivray
Associate Director
Ext. 233
marcim@osaa.org

Steve Walker
Sports Information Director
Ext. 232
stevew@osaa.org

Findings of Fact:

1. Conner attended Oregon City schools through December, 2014 of his Junior year in high school. He transferred to Lake Oswego H S in January, 2015 of his Junior year. Conner has struggled with depression at times since he was little. Prior to his transfer to Lake Oswego H S he was dealing with some hard times, including a change in his role on the football team and bad relationships with his girlfriend and dad. He then suffered a concussion vs. Clackamas which made everything worse. All of this contributed to his very serious mental health crisis. As his father, Bryan, stated, "It was a hard time for everybody." Conner decided he wanted to transfer to Lake Oswego H S where he wouldn't know anybody "to work on myself and get out of my depression." It was never his intent to attend Lake Oswego H S to participate in athletics. In fact, he didn't participate in interscholastic athletics during his time at Lake Oswego H S. He began counseling two times a week, working on communication with his parents and others, and not holding things in. He wants to take responsibility for his prior behavior and decisions and make things right with his friends.
2. While attending the 2nd semester at Lake Oswego H S he realized that he wanted to go back to Oregon City H S to repair his relationships with longtime friends and the football coaching staff, be a member of and support the Oregon City H S football team, and to graduate from Oregon City H S with his friends.
3. Football has been very important to Conner. It takes his mind off his troubles and motivates him academically. He hopes his football participation will provide the opportunity to play football at the college level. Mr. Mitchell states that "football grounds Conner."
4. Conner attended and passed three classes this summer. He is on track to graduate going into his senior year but will be taking additional online courses to strengthen his academic record. Conner states

that he considers his parents, the Oregon City H S administration present at this appeal, and Coach Nyquist to be part of his support group and he will go to them for help. Additionally, Conner's work with a new therapist, including some new medications, is going well.

5. Oregon City HS submitted an Eligibility Request to the 6A-Mt. Hood Conference District Athletic Committee the third week of August 2015. The DAC denied the eligibility request on August 24, 2015 and Oregon City H S requested an appeal on August 24, 2015.

Conclusions:

The EAB may grant an exception to the transfer rule "when in its opinion there are circumstances beyond the control of each of the student and the student's parent(s), or other circumstances whereby enforcement of the rule would work an undue hardship upon the student." After reviewing the facts and testimony presented, the EAB concluded that the decision to transfer Conner back to Oregon City H S was necessary given his serious mental health crisis and that he is back where he belongs in a healthy, supportive environment. Allowing Conner to participate in football at Oregon City H S will enable him to continue on a good path as he works through his depression. Additionally, the EAB concluded that the transfer to Lake Oswego wasn't made for athletic reasons as he would have been ineligible to participate. The EAB requests Oregon City H S to closely monitor Conner's attendance and insure that he has a support system available to him throughout his senior year.

Therefore, the Eligibility Appeals Board voted (4-1) to overturn the DAC denial of eligibility. Conner Mitchell is eligible to participate in OSAA activities effective September 1, 2015.

It is our sincere hope that this waiver will be of benefit to the student.

Sincerely,



Peter Weber
Assistant Executive Director

PW/ar

cc: Andy Jones, Athletic Director, Oregon City H S
Bryan and Elizabeth Mitchell, Parents
Wade Bakley, Principal, Reynolds H S, 6A Mt. Hood Conference, DAC Chairperson



Oregon School Activities Association
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070

503.682.6722

www.osaa.org

Student Eligibility Request Form

Form ID Number
20150011

Type of Waiver

Transfer to School with Affiliation Hardship Appeal
OSAA Rule 8.6.5 - Send directly to District Athletic Committee

Submitted 8/18/2015
2015-16 School Year

Oregon City High School Information

19761 S Beavercreek Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 785-8742

Tom Lovell, Principal
thomas.lovell@orecity.k12.or.us
(503) 785-8900

Andy Jones, Athletic Director
andrew.jones@orecity.k12.or.us
(503) 785-8739

Student Information

Conner James Mitchell

DOB: 6/21/1997

Age: 18 years 2 months (as of 8/18/15)

Current Address

Bryan and Elizabeth Mitchell
Parent (Mother/Father)
19200 S. Mosier Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045

Last Year's Address

Same as current address

Lizmitch5@aol.com
(503) 631-4851

Attends: Oregon City High School
Previous: Lake Oswego High School

Grade: 12

Has IEP? No

Meeting IEP? N/A

Enrollment Record

SY	GR Period	Dates	School	# Credits Earned	# Classes Passed
2012-13	9 1st Trimester	9/10/12 to 6/12/13	Oregon City High School	7.5	15
2013-14	10 1st Trimester	9/3/13 to 11/21/13	Oregon City High School	2	4
2013-14	10 2nd Trimester	12/2/13 to 3/13/14	Oregon City High School	1.5	3
2013-14	10 3rd Trimester	3/31/14 to 6/11/14	Oregon City High School	2.5	5
2014-15	11 1st Trimester	9/5/14 to 12/1/14	Oregon City High School	2.25	5
2014-15	11 2nd Semester	1/30/15 to 6/5/15	Lake Oswego High School	2	4
2014-15	11 Summer Session	6/30/15 to 7/30/15	Oregon City Service Learning Academy	1.5	6

Under penalty of perjury, I do affirm that no coach, parent, administrator, teacher, or other representative of the current school initiated contact or offered any inducements for the purpose of having the student attend the current school for athletic participation. Further, I authorize release of permanent school records to the Oregon School Activities Association.

Both signatures are required.

Elizabeth A. Mitchell

Parent Signature (or host family)

[Signature]

Principal / Superintendent

Directions

Ensure the Affirmation Statement section has both signatures. Send this printed Student Eligibility Request Form and any attached files to your District Athletic Committee. Do not send this to the OSAA office. Keep a copy for your school's records. Allow five business days for your request to be processed. Once a decision is made, the District Athletic Committee will notify your school.

Send a printed version of this form directly to your District Athletic Committee with any other printed attachments.

District Athletic Committee Decision

This section is to be filled out by the District Athletic Committee. Once a decision has been made, the committee shall contact the school regarding the outcome and forward a copy of this completed form and any supplemental materials to the OSAA office.

Wade Bakley

Chairperson's Name (print)

8/24/15

Date

[Signature]

Chairperson's Signature

☐ Approved

☒ Denied

Reynolds High School Principal

Chairperson's School & Position

Notes:

Appeals Process

Appeals of decisions made by the District Athletic Committee are heard by the OSAA Eligibility Appeals Board. Appeals must be requested in writing, or e-mail, and submitted to the OSAA Executive Director.

Any party filing an appeal of a decision made by the District Athletic Committee to the OSAA Eligibility Appeals Board shall be assessed a filing fee of \$100 to defray the costs to the Association of assembling the respective appeals bodies to hear the appeal.

If a waiver is denied by the OSAA Eligibility Appeals Board, an appeal can be made to a Hearings Officer under OSAA Handbook Rule 9, "Hearings Officer." Appeals to the Hearings Officer shall include an appeal fee of \$250.

For additional information, please refer to the OSAA Handbook available at www.osaa.org/governance/handbooks.

Below is the DAC's reasoning for the denied eligibility request.

1. Nothing outside of Connor's or his family's control caused him to transfer. It was 100% their choice. There was no "hardship".
2. The process for transferring and the ramifications of the transfer were clearly explained to Connor and his family.
3. Connor participated in football activities at LOHS and from the information provided to the Committee it appears that his transfers between Oregon City, Lake Oswego, and back to Oregon City were athletically motivated and not for academics.

Let me know if you have any questions or need any more information. Thanks.

GO RAIDERS!!!!

Chris Coleman, CAA
Athletic Director / Assistant Principal
Reynolds High School
503-667-3186 x1008
CColeman@rsd7.net

Student Name Mitchell, Conner J.				Oregon City School District 062 Oregon City High School		OCSD High School Oregon City High School August 05, 2015 http://www.OCHSPioneers.org	
Perm ID 283537	State ID 7044917	Grd 11	Gen M				
Date Of Birth 06/21/1997		Phone 503-631-4851		Diploma Type OC Standard		Phone 503-785-8900	Fax 503-785-8576
Home Address 19200 S Mosler Rd Oregon City, OR 97045				Graduation Date		School Address 19761 S Beavercreek Rd Oregon City, OR 97045	

Subject	Course Title	Mark	Cred Cmp	Abs 1	Subject	Course Title	Mark	Cred Cmp	Abs 1	Graduation Requirements		Credit Summary					
Oregon City High School					Oregon City High School					Subject Area	Req'd	Compl	Needed				
Yr: 2012	Term:	Grade:	09		Yr: 2013	Term:	T3	Grade:	10	Fine Arts/Applied Arts/CTE	3.000	3.000					
AR	Introduction to Business M B-	0.500	0		EN	English 10B	C-	0.500	6	Economics	0.500	0.000	0.500				
EN	English 9 A	A	0.500	1	MA	Algebra 1C (CC)	C	0.500	4	Electives	7.000	2.250	4.750				
EN	English 9 B	C	0.500	2	SC	Biology B	F	0.000	8	English	4.000	3.000	1.000				
AR	Introduction to Art	A-	0.500	2	US	US History B	B-	0.500	4	Government	0.500	0.500					
AR	Spanish 1A	B-	0.500	2	PE	Weight Training & Cond	A	0.500	12	Health	1.000	0.500	0.500				
AR	Spanish 1B	C	0.500	1	AR	Microsoft Office	C	0.500	4	Mathematics	3.000	3.000					
HE	Health 1	A	0.500	2	Cred Cmp: 2.500 GPA: 2.07					Physical Education	1.500	1.500					
SC	Physical Science A	A	0.500	2	Oregon City High School					Science	3.000	1.500	1.500				
SC	Physical Science B	B	0.500	0	Yr: 2014	Term:	T1	Grade:	11	Senior Project	0.500	0.000	0.500				
MA	Algebra 1A (CC)	C	0.500	1	EN	Amer Comparative Lit A	C-	0.500	4	US History	1.000	1.000					
MA	Algebra 1B (CC)	A-	0.500	2	MA	Geometry A (CC)	B-	0.500	3	Global Studies	1.000	1.000					
MA	Algebra 1B (CC)	D	0.500	3	SC	Biology A	C-	0.500	4	TOTALS	28.000	17.250	8.750				
PE	Weight Training & Conditi	A	0.500	0	EL	Weight Training & Cond	B-	0.500	4	Graduation Requirements - Test History							
WH	Global Studies A	B	0.500	1	EL	Teacher Asst	S	0.250	5	Test Name	Result						
WH	Global Studies B	B-	0.500	1	Cred Cmp: 2.250 GPA: 2.20					Personalized Learning	Not Taken						
Cred Cmp: 7.500 GPA: 2.97					Oregon City Service Learning Academy					Essential Skills Reading	Passed						
Oregon City High School					Yr: 2014	Term:	SX	Grade:	11	Essential Skills Writing	Not Passed						
Yr: 2013	Term:	T1	Grade:	10	EN	English 10 Q1	B	0.250		Essential Skills Mathematics	Not Passed						
EN	English 10 A	F	0.000	5	EN	English 10 Q2	B	0.250									
MA	Geometry A (CC)	D	0.500	3	EN	English 10 Q3	C	0.250									
EL	Math Workshop A	B	0.500	3	EN	English 10 Q4	C	0.250									
US	US History A	C	0.500	3	GO	Government Q1	B	0.250									
AR	Computer Keyboarding	B	0.500	2	GO	Government Q2	B	0.250									
Cred Cmp: 2.000 GPA: 1.80					Cred Cmp: 1.500 GPA: 2.67												
Oregon City High School					Attendance												
Yr: 2013	Term:	T2	Grade:	10	School Year	Days Membership	Days Absences										
MA	Algebra 1C (CC)	F	0.000	15	2010-2011	40	8										
SC	Biology A	F	0.000	5	2011-2012	154	5										
EL	Spanish 2A	D+	0.500	6	2012-2013	166	3										
PE	Weight Training & Cond	A	0.500	6	2013-2014	164	10										
EL	Success 101	A+	0.500	6	2014-2015	80	19										
Cred Cmp: 1.500 GPA: 1.86																	

(*) = Modified

GPA SUMMARY <u>High School Weighted</u> <u>High School Unweighted</u> HS Weighted 2.42 HS Unweighted 2.42		Grading Legend <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Grade</th><th>Grade</th><th>Grade</th></tr> <tr> <td>A+ 4.0</td><td>A 4.0</td><td>A- 3.7</td></tr> <tr> <td>B+ 3.3</td><td>B 3.0</td><td>B- 2.7</td></tr> <tr> <td>C+ 2.3</td><td>C 2.0</td><td>C- 1.7</td></tr> <tr> <td>D+ 1.3</td><td>D 1.0</td><td>D- 1.0</td></tr> </table> <p>* Honors weighted classes are .50 higher. * AP weighted classes are 1.0 higher.</p>	Grade	Grade	Grade	A+ 4.0	A 4.0	A- 3.7	B+ 3.3	B 3.0	B- 2.7	C+ 2.3	C 2.0	C- 1.7	D+ 1.3	D 1.0	D- 1.0	NOTES ~ = Audit Class
Grade	Grade	Grade																
A+ 4.0	A 4.0	A- 3.7																
B+ 3.3	B 3.0	B- 2.7																
C+ 2.3	C 2.0	C- 1.7																
D+ 1.3	D 1.0	D- 1.0																
Enter Date 09/02/2003	Ranked By High School Weighted																	
Class Rank	Graduation Date																	
Class of 2016																		

Signature _____

08/05/2015

Student Name Mitchell, Conner James				Lake Oswego School District 007 Lake Oswego High School		High School Transcript Lake Oswego High School June 15, 2015 http://www.loswego.k12.or.us	
Perm ID 802225	State ID 7044917	Grd 11	Gen M				
Date Of Birth 06/21/1997		Phone ###-###-####		Diploma Type District		Phone 503-534-2313	Fax 503-534-2327
Home Address 19200 S Mosler Rd Oregon City, OR 97045				Graduation Date		School Address 2501 Country Club Rd PO Box 310 Lake Oswego, OR 97034-310	

Subject	Course Title	Mark	Cred Alt/Cmp	Subject	Course Title	Mark	Cred Alt/Cmp	Graduation Requirements - Credit Summary			
Oregon City High School				Oregon City High School				Subject Area	Req'd	Comp	WIP Needed
Yr: 2013	Month: 8	Grade: 09		Yr: 2014	Month: 6	Grade: 10		Advanced Communicat	0.500	0.500	
EL	Introduction to Business	B-	0.500/0.500	EL	Microsoft Office	C	0.500/0.500	Elective	6.500	5.750	0.750
EL	Algebra 1B (CC)	A-	0.500/0.500	EL	Weight Training & Cond.	A	0.500/0.500	English	4.000	2.000	2.000
EN	English 9 A	A	0.500/0.500	EN	English 10 B	C-	0.500/0.500	Fine Arts	1.000	0.500	0.500
EN	English	C	0.500/0.500	MA	Algebra 1C (CC)	C	0.500/0.500	Health	1.000	0.500	0.500
FA	Introduction to Art	A-	0.500/0.500	SC	Biology B	F	0.500/0.000	Mathematics	3.000	2.500	0.500
HE	Health 1	A	0.500/0.500	SS	US History B	B-	0.500/0.500	Physical Education	1.000	1.000	
MA	Algebra 1B (CC)	D	0.500/0.500					Science	3.000	1.500	1.500
MA	Algebra 1A (CC)	C	0.500/0.500					Second Language	2.000	1.500	0.500
PE	Weight Training & Cond.	A	0.500/0.500					Social Studies	3.000	2.000	1.000
SC	Physical Science A	A	0.500/0.500	Yr: 2014	Month: 12	Grade: 11		TOTALS	25.000	17.750	0.000 7.250
SC	Physical Science B	B	0.500/0.500	EL	Teacher Asst	S	0.250/0.250	Graduation Requirements - Test History			
SL	Spanish 1A	B-	0.500/0.500	EL	Weight Training & Cond.	B-	0.500/0.500	Test Name		Result	Method
SL	Spanish 1B	C	0.500/0.500	EN	Amer Comparative Lit A	C-	0.500/0.500	Personalized Learning		Not Taken	
SS	Global Studies A	B	0.500/0.500	EL	Geometry A (CC)	B-	0.500/0.500	Essential Skills Reading		Passed	OSA
SS	Global Studies B	B-	0.500/0.500					^ No School Entered			
Cred Alt: 7.500	Cred Cmp: 7.500	GPA: 3.07						Essential Skills Writing		Not Taken	
Oregon City High School				Yr: 2015	Month: 6	Grade: 11		Essential Skills Mathematics		Not Passed	
Yr: 2013	Month: 12	Grade: 10		EN	Junior English	F	0.500/0.000	^ No School Entered			
EL	Computer Keyboarding	B	0.500/0.500	MA	Integrated Alg/Geometry	D	0.500/0.500				
EL	Math Workshop A	B	0.500/0.500	EL	Math Connections	C	0.500/0.500				
EN	English 10 A	F	0.500/0.000	SC	Biology	F	0.500/0.000				
MA	Geometry A (CC)	D	0.500/0.500	SS	America and Contemporar	F	0.500/0.000				
SS	US History A	B	0.500/0.500	SL	Spanish 1	F	0.500/0.000				
Cred Alt: 2.500	Cred Cmp: 2.000	GPA: 2.00		EL	Weight Training	A	0.500/0.500				
Oregon City High School				EL	Department Assistant	S	0.500/0.500				
Yr: 2014	Month: 3	Grade: 10		Cred Alt: 4.000	Cred Cmp: 2.000	GPA: 1.00					
AC	Success 101	A+	0.500/0.500	Attendance							
MA	Algebra 1C (CC)	F	0.500/0.000	School Year	Days Membership	Days Absences					
PE	Weight Training & Cond.	A	0.500/0.500	2014-2015	87	23					
SC	Biology A	F	0.500/0.000								
SL	Spanish 2A	D+	0.500/0.500								
Cred Alt: 7.000	Cred Cmp: 1.500	GPA: 0.64									

GPA SUMMARY <u>High School Weighted</u> <u>High School Unweighted</u> Cumulative 1.88 Cumulative 1.88		NOTES ~ = Audit Class
Enter Date 01/26/2015		
Graduation Date		
Class of 2017		

Authorized Signature _____

06/15/2015

Oregon City High School



19761 S. Beaver Creek Road Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone 503.785.8900 Fax 503.785.8578

August 14, 2015

To the Mt. Hood Conference Hardship Committee members:

Please accept this letter as my support for Conner Mitchell's hardship.

Conner was an OCSD student for most of his education. He attended OCHS until mid-way through last year, when he decided on his own to transfer to Lake Oswego High School. Conner was suffering from depression, had sustained a concussion during football, and as a result had difficulties adjusting to a new coach and a new offense.

Late in the spring he contacted our football coach, told him that he had made a big mistake, apologized for his behavior, and expressed interest in coming back to OCHS.

Today Conner is in a difficult position: he wants to finish his senior year at OCHS with his friends, and he wants to play football. He never participated in any sports at LOHS but is ineligible to play there. He's ineligible to play for any other public school except OCHS, but needs to file a hardship and have it approved in order to play.

I don't support student-athletes moving around because they don't like a coach or aren't getting playing time or similar reasons. In this case, we encouraged Conner not to move, but to stay here and work on his issues. Like many teenagers, Conner thought he was making a good decision, then realized that he had made a mistake. Since then he has been going to counseling, dealing with his depression, and he made the decision on his own to come back here.

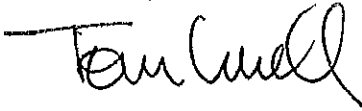
I support Conner in this case because he is an OCHS student, his roots are here, he has friends and staff members who are willing to help him, and we feel we are in the best position to help him graduate with his class on time. Much of his life is centered around athletics – football in particular – and his participation this fall will help ease his transition back here, and will also enable us to keep better track of his credits as he works towards a diploma.

This has been a humbling learning experience for Conner. He has owned up to his mistakes, admitted that he needs help with his depression, and just wants to be part of his old group of friends.

At no time did we reach out to Conner and ask him to come back to OCHS. However, we are happy to have him back as a member of the OCHS graduating class of 2016.

We ask that you approve this hardship which would make Conner eligible to play sports at OCHS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Lovell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the left side of the first letter.

Tom Lovell
Principal
Oregon City High School



OREGON CITY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
19761 S BEAVERCREEK RD, OREGON CITY, OR 97045
(503) 785-8961 Fax: (503) 785-8577

Andy Jones, Athletic Director/Associate Principal

Joan Ferguson, Athletic Secretary

August 17, 2015

Tom Welter
OSAA Executive Director
25200 SW Parkway Ave. Suite 1
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

I am writing this letter on behalf of Conner Mitchell. With the exception of one semester Conner has been a student in the Oregon City School District since he entered kindergarten. He has participated in a variety of school and athletic events during this time. He wants to be a member this year in one of our OSAA sanctioned programs.

Conner entered Oregon City High School in the fall of 2012. During this time he suffered from depression and at times made poor decisions. He has always been on track to graduate and has even taken summer classes to keep himself ahead. The OSAA has declared him ineligible for "Transfer to a School with Affiliation". Conner transferred to Lake Oswego High School after our first trimester in 2014 and spent one only semester there. He did not participate in any activities at Lake Oswego. Conner transferred thinking that it would be a better place for him to be. Conner sustained a concussion towards the end of last season and this is only one of many issues that he has struggled through. Coupled with his depression and issues of self worth he made that poor decision and decided to transfer schools. After school was out in the Spring of 2015 Conner decided to transfer back to OCHS so that he could graduate and participate in OSAA sanctioned athletics with the classmates he grew up with. He has followed all the correct processes (Intent to Transfer Request) but since he transferred during the school year last year and played in our own football program in the Fall of 2014 the OSAA requires a hardship to the District Committee. Conner and his family are well established in the Oregon City Community and this is the best place for him to finish both his educational and athletic career.

Based on the circumstances to Conner and where he is today (he is receiving counseling and went to summer school to pick up and additional 1.5 credits) I am a strong advocate for Conner to be granted eligibility and for you to approve this hardship request. If you need any more information please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Andy Jones
Athletic Director/Associate Principal
Oregon City High School
19761 S. Beavercreek Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 785-8739 office
(503) 785-8577 fax
andrew.jones@orecity.k12.or.us



Home of the Pioneers

8/8/15

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing this letter about our son Conner Mitchell, regarding his return to Oregon City High School and his eligibility for the 2015/16 football season. Conner has lived and attended school in the Oregon City School district his whole life. Conner also struggles with depression and OCD which have affected him since about the age of 3. After this last football season Conner suffered a concussion and became very depressed. He quit attending classes, became withdrawn and had a toxic relationship with his girlfriend that was going on and off.

Conner decided he really needed a change in his life, a fresh start, and decided to attend Lake Oswego High School. It was a positive change for him. At the end of the term he really missed his friends that he had grown up with and decided he wanted to graduate and play his final football season with them. Conner did not participate in any sports at LO, just attended school, and worked through his personal issues.

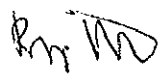
We spoke with Andy and coach Nyquist about Conner returning to OC and his eligibility. They said they needed to talk to the OSAA first. They did and said Conner needed a couple classes and if he did those he would be good to go. Conner completed 3 classes this summer so we thought he was eligible.

It was through the news media that we heard he wasn't eligible and found ourselves having to go through this process.

Conner would really like to return to OC, play his Senior Season with the kids he's grown up with and graduate with them. He's in a good place right now, he's maturing and working hard on himself. We hope you approve him and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elijah Mitchell



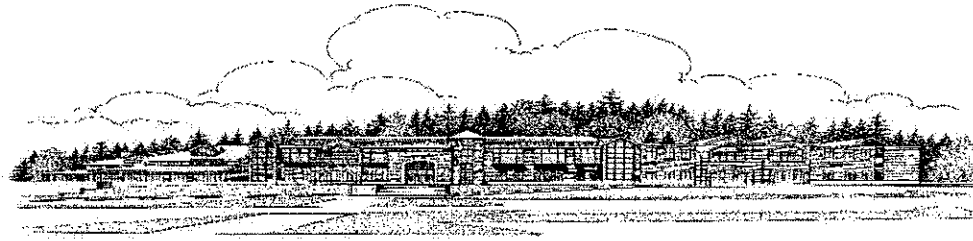
Elizabeth + Bryan Mitchell

8/10/15

I moved to Lake Oswego High School for personal reasons, I didn't have a problem with anyone or anything at Oregon City High School, I was going through a hard part in my life and I didn't want my friends and the people I've grown up with to see me like that so I felt like being on my own for a little was the best thing for me. After spending a couple months at Lake Oswego I was able to take the time I needed off to get over all the hardships I was currently going through and become the better person that I am today. Then I realized how much I missed my friends, the kids I've been going to school and playing sports with since Kindergarten. I didn't wanna spend my senior year of high school with a bunch of people I didn't even know. So I decided that I wanted to finish my last year of high school and graduate with all my friends and play my last year of football with the people who mean the most to me. I didn't feel welcomed at Lake Oswego High School, I wasn't having a good time in school and I didn't want to be there. I feel that I owe it to Oregon City High School to come back and give them everything I have because that's what I wanna do and that's where I'm gonna feel most comfortable.

Sincerely, *Conner Mitchell*

Conner Mitchell



Lake Oswego High School

Cindy Schubert
Principal

Brian Crawford
Assistant Principal

2501 SW Country Club Road
P.O. Box 310
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
Main Office (503) 534-2313
Counseling Office (503) 534-2314

Travis Johnson
Assistant Principal

Brigham Baker
Athletic Director

August 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked to write a letter regarding Connor Mitchell's status as a student at Lake Oswego High School. Connor Mitchell enrolled as a tuition student at the beginning of second semester his junior year after leaving Oregon City. Parents indicated to me prior to enrollment that they wanted Connor to have a fresh start in school, for him to concentrate on academics, and possibly play football.

The process for transferring and the ramifications of the transfer were explained to parents by myself. In addition, I encouraged them to call OSAA for more information on the legalities of Connor's transfer and athletic eligibility.

Despite multiple interventions, Connor struggled with the coursework which we believe was due to repeated absences. In one semester, he missed 95 class periods, 7 of which were excused. Teachers and his counselor took him under their wing and offered supports to assist him academically. Towards the end of the school year, we saw some progress in Connor's focus on academics but not in his attendance. Connor participated in spring football workouts and continued his involvement with the football program into the summer.

I met with Connor several times in the spring in an effort to support his transition into our high school. Connor always seemed to appreciate the support teachers, counselor, coaches, and myself offered. Prior to the end of the school year, we developed a credit recovery plan for the summer so that Connor could play football in the fall at LOHS.

We learned through a phone call to Coach Coury this past summer that Connor had returned to Oregon City High School and was planning to play football there.

Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schubert
Principal

Tom Welter

From: Andrew Jones <Andrew.Jones@orecity.k12.or.us>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 11:12 AM
To: Tom Welter
Subject: Appeal

Tom,

I would like to appeal the Mt. Hood Conference District Hardship Committee decision on Conner Mitchell to the OSAA. I was informed via email that our hardship on "Transfer Affiliation" was denied.

I am hoping that a committee could be put together in an expediate manner so that the hearing could happen as soon as possible.

If there is anything else you need from me please let me know.

Thank you.

Andy Jones

Athletic Director/Associate Principal
Oregon City High School
19761 S. Beavercreek Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 785-8739 office
(503) 785-8577 fax
andrew.jones@orecity.k12.or.us





OREGON CITY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
19761 S BEAVERCREEK RD, OREGON CITY, OR 97045
(503) 785-8961 Fax: (503) 785-8577

Andy Jones, Athletic Director/Associate Principal

Joan Ferguson, Athletic Secretary

August 27, 2015

Tom Welter
OSAA Executive Director
25200 SW Parkway Ave. Suite 1.
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

I am writing this letter on behalf of Conner Mitchell. With the exception of one semester Conner has been a student in the Oregon City School District since he entered kindergarten. During this time he has participated in a variety of school and athletic events and established good deep-rooted relationships.

Conner entered Oregon City High School in the fall of 2012. For several years Conner has suffered from depression and at times made some poor decisions. Conner transferred to Lake Oswego High School after our first trimester in 2014 and spent one semester there as a student. He did not participate in any activities (outside of open facilities) while at Lake Oswego. As with most high school students Conner made a decision thinking that it would be a better place for him; that the grass was going to be greener and that his issues would disappear. This was not the case and Conner realized that the deep-rooted relationships he had established and that the best way for him to be successful would be to return to Oregon City High School.

Coupled with his depression and issues of self-worth Conner also sustained a concussion towards the end of last season. Although I am not a medical professional I do believe (after being around high school students for over 20+ years), that all of these issues contributed him to make the decision to transfer schools. After school was out in the spring of 2015 Conner decided to transfer back to OCHS so that he could graduate and participate in OSAA sanctioned athletics with the classmates he grew up with. He has followed all the correct processes (Intent to Transfer Request) but since he transferred during the school year last year and played in our own football program in the fall of 2014 the OSAA requires a hardship to the District Committee. Conner and his family are well established in the Oregon City Community and this is the best place for him to finish both his educational and athletic career. Neither Conner, Oregon City High School or Lake Oswego High School has gained an advantage in this situation. He is simply back where he belongs; among friends, community and school personnel who not only care for him as a student/athlete but also as a person.

Oregon City High School is where Conner can be successful and based on the circumstances to Conner and where he is today I am a strong advocate for Conner to be granted eligibility and for you to approve this hardship request. If you need any more information please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Andy Jones
Athletic Director/Associate Principal
Oregon City High School
19761 S. Beaver Creek Rd.
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Home of the Pioneers

Oregon City



High School

19761 S. Beaver Creek Road Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone 503.785.8900 Fax 503.785.8578

August 28, 2015

To: Tom Welter and Committee members:

We are asking that you review the enclosed material that explains the events that transpired over the past year, and approve this hardship for Conner Mitchell.

Conner has attended school in Oregon City his entire life, except for part of last year. He made some decisions at a time in his life when he was depressed, fighting with his parents, and contemplating suicide, and those decisions have now culminated in being ineligible to play sports at Oregon City High School without being granted a hardship.

Conner is an outstanding football player who enjoyed great success on the varsity team as a sophomore running back. We hired a new football coach in the spring of 2014, and in the fall we had a new coaching staff, a new offense, and Conner had a slightly diminished role on the team, which he struggled to accept.

About mid-way through the football season Conner suffered a severe concussion, and after that we saw a huge change in him. He wouldn't come in the office and talk to the office staff much, he was quiet, withdrawn, and noticeably changed.

Then one day it all came to a head. The administrators were meeting and one of our security people came in and said she had an emergency. Conner had texted his girl friend a picture of his knives and his wrist, and a message that said something about hurting himself.

We tried to call both of his parents to see if they were home, but couldn't reach either of them. We contacted the Clackamas County Sheriff's office and asked that they go to the Mitchell home and check on Conner. Our school resource officer was out that day, and the Oregon City police officer filling in for him stayed in our meeting and we listened over his radio as the sheriffs got to the Mitchell home and found Conner safe.

Afterwards we met with Conner and his parents, and required them to take Conner in for a mental health evaluation. After they completed the evaluation we made a safety plan for Conner and let him back into school.

The next football game, something happened and Conner started yelling at some of the players and coaches. The head coach met with him and told him his actions

were unacceptable, and laid out some consequences. Conner told him it didn't matter, he was quitting. He didn't play in the game that week, then asked to be let back on the team and the coach told him no. He missed the last two regular season games and the two playoff games. Conner started missing school, and then we heard he was transferring to Lake Oswego. Conner went to school at LOHS and finished the year there.

Late in the spring, Conner called our head football coach. He told the coach he had made a huge mistake, he had learned a lot about himself, had been going to counseling and dealing with his depression. He apologized for the things that he had said and done, and asked if he could come back. He wanted to finish his senior year at OCHS and graduate with his friends.

Conner now finds himself in a tough situation: because of his mid-year transfer to LOHS, he can't play football there, and can't play at OCHS unless he is granted a hardship.

We presented a hardship to our league, which was denied by a 2-1 vote. The reason given was that they didn't consider his situation a hardship, that he had made the decisions on his own and now had to live with the consequences.

At a league principal's meeting this week, we talked about our hardship procedure, and the league chair said that principals should always call the league chair and let him or her know any extenuating circumstances that weren't written in the hardship papers. I said I had never heard of that, and I certainly would have called him and explained more about this situation that I hadn't written down.

Here is why we feel this is a hardship that should be granted:

1. During football last year Conner found himself in a new offense, wasn't carrying the ball as much, suffered a concussion, and missed some practices. He deeper into depression because of that.
2. At the same time, he was arguing about school and football with his parents, to the point where it became so bad that he sent the suicidal text to his girlfriend, then had the sheriff at his doorstep.
3. He then had to go for a mental health screening, and was put on a safety plan at school. All of this contradicted the 'tough guy' image he had as an athlete.
4. All of that culminated in the outburst at the football game where the coach was going to discipline him for his behavior, and Conner quit the team.

All of these behaviors were completely opposite the person and player Conner had been in previous years. He was a tough kid who worked hard and had many friends. He competed at a high level and toughed it out in any situation. By mid-October of

last year, his mental state had deteriorated to suicidal thoughts and arguing with coaches during a game – the complete opposite of who he was.

Then he made the irrational decision, like many 17-year olds do, to change schools and hope that everything would be fine. It wasn't. It didn't get better until after he started going to counseling and owning up to his decisions and behavior, and that's when he called our coach and apologized for his actions.

None of these details was shared in my documentation to the league hardship committee. I thought that simply my word that this student was depressed and suicidal would suffice. It wasn't until after the hardship decision was made, when we had a league principal's meeting this week, that the league chair said that he always encourages principals to call the league chair and tell them any extenuating circumstances that they hadn't written down. I didn't know that's how our league operates – I thought that my letter would be clear enough.

We feel that this is a hardship because of Conner's mental and emotional health last fall, which led to his decision to transfer schools. He wasn't in a state-of-mind when he transferred to think about his actions and the ramifications of them.

We do not believe in presenting hardships to the league or the OSAA for little matters. We only pursue a hardship when we feel it is legitimate, and that it is in the student's best interest to have a hardship granted.

Conner has matured, sought counseling, and is dealing with his mental and emotional issues. He is back at OCHS and will attend school and graduate with his friends. Football is an important part of his life, and we feel an important part of his continued growth and maturation.

We ask that you please consider the entirety of Conner's story and grant this hardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Lovell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Lovell
Principal
Oregon City High School