

Please see the next page for details which was my letter of explanation from last year. Joe was in a horrible situation for what would have been his sophomore year. His freshman year and junior/last year he passed everything and got straight As with only one B. The only issue he has is that he does not meet satisfactory credit towards graduation because of the abusive situation he was in and not being able to attend school his sophomore year.

To: Tom Welter
Date: 9/2/14

From: Jesse Eveland
RE: Joseph Jesse

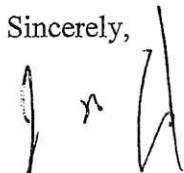
I write this letter on behalf of Joe Jesse. Joe is a Junior at Clackamas Middle College which is a charter school in our district. He currently lives with his grandma in our district. He was a freshman here at Putnam two years ago but his dad took him out of school last year. He didn't attend any school and has no eligible grades from last year so he didn't pass five classes and he isn't making satisfactory progress towards graduation.

Joe's letter speaks to his struggles. I have confirmed that DHS is involved and there is a report that is consistent with Joe's letter. This is a horrible case of child abuse and an unfortunate situation that no child should ever have to go through. Joe is a smart young man that is trying to get his life back in order after suffering from his father's actions.

Joe is a respectful and polite kid who got straight A's as a freshman. I do not see any reason why any reasonable parent would have taken him out of school for a year. The case is ongoing but Joe currently lives with his grandma.

I fully support this hardship appeal and I thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Jesse Eveland
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Rex Putnam High School

In the 2013-14 school year I was absent for what would have been my sophomore year in high school and therefore has put me behind on credits. I was absent from school because I was dealing with a lot of personal struggles that my father put me through while I was living with him. He took me out of school without telling anyone and when he did, he told my former counselor that he would be placing me in the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. However, he did take me to the program in Bend, Oregon, so I could apply but I was not accepted because I didn't meet the requirements needed to be accepted. The requirements were you had to be behind in credits, have had a previous criminal record, or have had a history with drug and alcohol abuse. I had none of those things when I applied, and except for the shortage of credits, and still don't. While living with my dad he also put me through many other traumatizing factors that have had a great affect on my life: he cut me off from all contact to my friends and family, wouldn't allow me to play sports, grounded me for about 20 months, did not give me any freedoms, had me do hard labor by shoveling gravel rocks back and forth his backyard until it was dark and he made me go to bed, only allowed me to eat two meals a day which consisted of two peanut butter sandwiches, a glass of milk and occasionally a banana, took away all my belongings, made me sleep on a hardwood floor for about five months, kept me alone and in my room by myself for about five months strait, would not let me use the restroom unless he was home to watch me, and made me urinate in a water bottle and would not allow me to leave my room to poop unless he was home. He also put me through many mental struggles such as daily telling talking negatively towards me and being the only way he would talk to me, telling all my friends and family lies about what I had done, how I was this terrible kid and telling me how I had no friends or family left. And it was all lies that put me in a very unhealthy state of mind. I had not seen any of my friends or family in almost a year. Finally two of my friends from Putnam went up to the security guard and told him about me and my situation. It was reported and very soon DHS heard of it and came to my house to investigate. After everything they had heard and saw they started looking for a place for me to stay and suggested my grandmother, which is who I live with now. I still wonder why my own father put me through what I went through. Two years before everything with my dad happened I also went through a very difficult time with my mom. She had gotten into a drug addiction and left me and my dad when I was 12 years old.

After having almost two full years of my life wasted, I have tried really hard to recover and get my life back on track form everything that happened. When I went to go live with my grandmother I immediately did what I could, with help from friends and family, to get myself enrolled back in school. I am now going to Clackamas Middle College to help regain my lost credits and hopefully get back to the academic excellence I've had my entire life. I have also started involving myself in sports again, such as football and basketball, and I plan to do track this year for the first time. And, being that I'm 16 years old, I also now have a job at two different Jimmy John's restaurants located in Happy Valley, Oregon. My job, school and sports have made me so happy being able to say that I have them and not having that for a long time has really given me a certain appreciation for those things and makes me never want to lose them again. And most of all, being with my friends and family again has been amazing and they have really given

me all the emotional support I've needed to get through all of this. I have great relationships with all of them and it's only getting better. I still try my best to keep communication with my dad and I hope that someday we will be able to have somewhat of a relationship again in the future. I have even started up communication with my mom as well and things are looking up in that situation as well. She has been sober for about a year and things are really looking up.

Sports have been something throughout my life that I have loved being apart of. I have played them as long as I can remember and played on actual teams as long as I've been able to. They have been a true love for me and an escape for me when times got hard. No matter how hard things were for me in my personal life, I've always known that basketball and football will always be there and will never change or go away. And one of the best things I believe that I have gotten out of sports is friends and meeting new people. I have met so many of my friends through sports and I can say that my four best friends that I have in my life right now, I met through sports. I've really liked all my coaches and got to know them and get close to them on more of a personal level besides just the sport itself. I have many coaches in my life right now that have been there for me throughout hard times and will always be there for me if I am to ever need them. I have coaches for both football and basketball that I look up to and view as very good and positive role models in my life. It feels great knowing that sports had provided all that for me and been much more than just a game for me.

Sept 3, 2014

I am writing to confirm the information in the letter that Joe wrote is true. The abuse was at the hands of his father and his new girlfriend after moving into her house. To give you a peek at his relationship with his father before this move. Joe and his father was as close as a father and son could ever be. Joe and his dad had a super relationship. When Joe and Helly split up, his son was his whole world. The change was like night and day.

In Feb, 2014 I received a call from Jennifer Newman from DHS. She wanted to know what I could tell her about little Joe. I told her what I had heard and was told but could not confirm because I was not allowed to see him in almost 20 mos. She ask if it became necessary would I be willing to have him come live with me. Of course I would. He came to live with me March 17, 2014.

We started right away talking to CMC about getting him in school. It was to late to get him in school. But we worked on this year. He was tested at Clarkesville Community College to see where he would be placed. Math, Reading & Writing he placed at Sophomore in College. We reconnected with friends, family, friends and his sports, trying to make him feel like a normal child.

Sports has always been his saving grace thru out his life. His dad got him into a YMCA basketball team when he was in Kindergarten and the next year his dad was his coach. He put Joe in a AAU league. A league for more advanced players.

There are several very important in his life and especially now. His family and extended family, friends, his 4.0 average he has maintained thru school, his sports and to be the best he can be at all he does.

Ellen L. Jesse

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