

Jan, 20 2016

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter in regards to my two daughters Cassidy and Jenna McCullough. My daughter just transferred from Riverside High School to Heppner High School yesterday. It has been brought to our attention yesterday afternoon that the girls will be unable to participate in the athletic programs at Heppner High School due to the mid-year transfer. We have been informed that we can petition a hardship case with the athletic directors for consideration to be able to participate in school sports.

Myself, wife and entire family have a long history with Riverside High School. I attended this school myself until graduation in 1988 and all three of my children have been in the Boardman school system for the last 17 years that we have been residents of Boardman. I will start off by stating that I'm very disappointed and upset with the experience that all 3 of my kids have had at Riverside Jr/Sr High School. I have no complaints on Sam Boardman Elementary or Windy River in Boardman. All 3 of my kids were challenged and taught in my opinion in a very professional manner at the grade school level. Although that all changed once they started to attend Riverside Jr/Sr high school. My oldest daughter now 24 years old was a national honor society member and graduated with honors as a student athlete, number three in her class with a (3.5-3.75 GPA, can't remember exactly). To our great surprise she received next to no counseling, scholarship instruction or guidance from this school system and virtually only received a very small scholarship, that a BMCC board member helped her out with. I was a little upset that most all assistance, scholarships and awards were all issued to the kids that struggled to even graduate from this school. Somehow this school has the ability to give these failing/non participant students a bunch of packets of work in the last 2-3 weeks of school and amazing they graduate, they get guidance, counseling, scholarships and awards, even though their academic performance was very poor through the entire educational system. It appears to me that those that work hard and try to be successful and are involved in all extracurricular activities are for some reason looked down upon and in my opinion left behind. Anyways when my oldest daughter graduated and moved on to college entry exams, it became apparent that her education was lacking severely and also could not even pass the ASVAB test to get into the military with. My daughter attended her first year of college to basically achieve a high school education; this is not fair to her or to us her parents due to the added expense, time and hardship of having to pay and achieve a high school education at the college level.

All three of my kids have had to deal with extreme diversity in the school place as Boardman school system is 80+ percent Hispanic. This makes my kids and many other kids the major minority of the student population. This does have its effect on social issues, opportunities, student leadership programs and opportunities that are tailored to Hispanic students only and the day to day stress of being a minority. I do however feel that it is a great experience and learning opportunity for both the students and the parents to learn how to cope and deal with things that sometimes just don't seem fair. In addition I feel strongly that the educational level being taught at Riverside is being tailored to the majority population and not equal to all involved. I personally have spoken with an ex teacher from Riverside high school a couple years ago when myself and my wife where trying to influence our kids to

transfer to a different school in the Morrow County school system. This teacher left Riverside because the phase was "Riverside is a Socialization institution, not an Educational institution". We should have forced our kids to transfer at this time but we respected their opinion to continue on at Riverside. It also appears to me that there is almost a double standard between the Majority and Minority population in the Riverside School system, Majority population are allowed more space, don't have to abide by the same rules as adherently as the Minority population does and are allowed much more leeway in both academics, social behavior and discipline. I do understand this sounds as if I'm a racist but I can assure you that is furthest from the truth as possible.

In regards to Kassidy and Jenna the 2015 school year has been extremely challenging for them for a multitude of incidents that I will now just briefly review. My girls have been A and B students since they have started school, they both have played sports since they have been old enough to do so. This started with T-ball, little league and youth basketball at the younger years and moved on to school sports when they were old enough to participate. This year both my daughters made the decision to not play basketball. Kassidy has never really liked this sport (not the highly aggressive player that basketball requires), but has always participated before mostly because she's an athlete and wants to stay in shape, socialize with her friends and show her school spirit. Jenna on the other hand is very aggressive at this sport and we were a bit upset that she did not play as she kind of has that more aggressive drive that is needed for playing basketball. Anyway we once again respected their feelings and did not force them to play. This is when all kinds of problems started, rumors started flying through the school that myself and my wife paid them \$500 not to play. This got back to me from not only my girls but from local residents that work in Boardman. The coaches contacted my family members to ask them why me and my wife are paying our kids not to play. My kids were brought into the office to talk to the school administration about this, also pulled aside by the faculty and teachers. We did not and never would pay our kids not to play a sport as we personally feel they should be playing school sports. This problem was taken up by me with the vice principle after numerous attempts to contact the principle and multiple messages left, I just seemed to never get a returned call (not very professional) if I did not return the calls of my customers, I would not have any and with no customers I would have no job. The vice principle had the teachers write a note on the chalk boards to tell all the kids to not spread rumors about people when they are not true and everyone needs to get along. Of course this went over like a lead balloon and the kids started to torment my kids even more because now they are tattle tales, they were not I was. Why where the kids responsible for this not punished (it was because of who they were and mostly who their parents are). Once again this is not cool, the abuse and bullying continued on, physically (being pushed and run into in the hallways), mentally (rumors and slander being spread everywhere), socially (via social media). Then the icing on the cake was when a student took a picture of my daughter Kassidy and decided to be stupid and put it on a computer and photo shop the picture into a piece of child pornography. Then he started blasting it out onto the internet, social media and fellow students. This is really not cool and also against the law, long story short, I got involved, the police got involved, tickets were issued and the case turned over to the Morrow County District Attorney for prosecution. The bad part is that of course everyone in the school knew what was going on due to the investigation over this incident and my girls are being treated even worse for causing the Riverside Gangster Cartel problems.

Before the Christmas break we had to argue with our girls to get them to even go to school because of the way they were being treated and abused, over the break they said they don't ever want to go back to Riverside High and they wanted to transfer to Heppner High school. Myself and my wife could not agree with their decision more at this time and we encouraged them to do so. On the negative side this is a 50 mile commute in each direction this mean an extra-long day for my girls and considerable more expense in transportation. I spoke with both my daughters last night when they got home from their first day at Heppner high, they are again upset and concerned because the classes they are in are being taught at a much higher level and they are as we suspected very behind as our older daughter was. My girls are smart and hard workers, Heppner high teachers have spoken with them and told them that they are dedicated to get them caught up and I know my girls have the ability and the drive to get caught up. They were also very upset that they could not participate in the school Softball program this year and that is why I have written this letter is to ask you to please let our girls participate in the school sports program, they deserve it and are wonderful, smart, fun kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken & Sara McCullough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Ken" on top and "Sara" on the bottom.

Ken & Sara McCullough

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