

April 20, 2016

John & Sandi Thompson
40 Mason Lane
Shady Cove, OR 97539
(541)326-5886
thompsonjf@embarqmail.com

Dear OSAA,

We are supporting our daughter, Taelor Thompson, in her request for consideration of hardship in order to continue to play softball for Eagle Point High School her senior year. We have lived in Jackson County School District 9 for 18 years and had our 5 daughters attending schools there for most of their lives. They are students & athletes; we believe in giving our children every opportunity to achieve their best.

Taelor was not our first daughter to attend high school in Prospect. Our eldest daughter, Morgan, attended Prospect High School before it became a charter school and graduated valedictorian in 2012. Morgan's senior year, she was targeted by the principle at PCS and our complaints about the principal and the superintendent, Mr. Alexander, went to TSPC & the Oregon State Board of Education, and were reported in the Mail Tribune. And still we felt PCS was a good fit for Taelor her junior year 2014-2015, since the principal was new and we admired Mr. Mickelson's commitment to the student's at PCS.

During Taelor's junior year with her knee injury in volleyball, sports were not an issue and Taelor was unable to play softball that year for PCS. We spoke with Mr. Mickelson, the Athletic Director at PCS, about accommodating her school schedule her senior year to play sports, and he had supported her. We were confident that things would work out well for Taelor at PCS, both academically and athletically. However, when she returned in the fall to PCS, her schedule contradicted what was previously discussed. We gave Taelor the opportunity to work it out with her school. She shared with us that a plan was worked out with her teachers, and then the principal, Mr. Dexter was contacted directly so that we, Taelor, her teachers and Mr. Dexter could work out the details of Taelor's schedule. Instead, he left a message telling us that he had investigated it and would not accommodate any changes in her schedule. It was kept simple; we withdrew her immediately to figure out what would be best academically for Taelor. She chose to return to EPHS and since this is our home school district, we did not perceive it to be an issue. No transfer papers needed and Taelor registered at EPHS as a returning student. Then her dad received a phone call for Mr. Mickelson and stated that we would do everything we can to keep her from playing down there (EPHS). We were in total disbelief, because Mr. Mickelson had been so active in helping Taelor prepare for college. She wants to double major in Agricultural Business Management and Non-ruminant Nutrition and minor in Livestock Genetics and she has been accepted to Oregon State University, South Dakota State University (Mr. Mickelson's alma mater) & the University of Arizona, he helped her with this while she was a student at PCS and sent her an email offering her help while she was a student at EPHS.

We were truly caught off guard by PCS complaint to OSAA about Taelor's eligibility to play sports for EPHS. We believe and still do that Taelor's is a returning student to EPHS. And don't understand why PCS waited so long to say anything when we know that Mr. Mickelson & Mr. Alexander knew in September 2015 that Taelor is attending and would probably play sports for EPHS. Thank you for your time, consideration in this matter and please contact us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

John & Sandi Thompson