

October, 2007

Members of the School Board of Education
Vinton County Local School District
307 West High Street
McArthur, Ohio 45651

RE: Soccer in our Schools!

Dear Members of the School Board:

We ask that you take action to bring soccer to our schools. We want you to make soccer an extra-curricular activity available to our students. You should allow our students to enjoy and benefit from soccer as so many schools across our region already do.

Your logo states: "Striving for Excellence in Education". In taking positive action to provide students with this activity, you are demonstrating to not only the community, but also to the children you represent that you are doing everything in your power to help them succeed. If you strive for excellence, they will also strive for excellence. The things that we do affect each and every child in our community. How you treat this situation can positively effect the way one child or a thousand children going through Vinton County Schools perceive life. The old saying goes: ". . .If a child lives with recognitionhe learns that it is good to have a goal. . . If a child lives with fairness, he learns what justice is. . ." Let us teach them through our actions by striving to bring soccer to our schools that we care about them and we care that they succeed. Let us show them that there is strength in a community that works for them. Let us show them that there is hope in a community with high morals. Let us show them that working together to help them succeed shows success. They will learn from our actions. And they will teach others.

We urge you to take action for the following reasons:

- 1) ***We urge you to take action because . . .*** playing soccer provides students lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, and competition which will benefit students off the field throughout life.
- 2) ***We urge you to take action because . . .*** playing soccer will provide students the opportunity to become physically fit, which has been linked to higher self-esteem and better classroom performance.
- 3) ***We urge you to take action because . . .*** playing soccer will provide many students the chance to represent their school on a field of competition, a chance many students do not otherwise have.
- 4) ***We urge you to take action because . . .*** Vinton County is the only county in southeastern Ohio without soccer in one of its schools; and Vinton County High School is the only school in the Ohio Division of the TVC without soccer. Don't our students deserve the same opportunities our neighbors provide their students?
- 5) ***We urge you to take action because . . . you can take action.*** You can bring soccer to Vinton County Local Schools now.
- 6) ***We urge you to take action because . . .*** it is a school board's mission to provide the best opportunities for ***all*** students to succeed by adopting policies that ensure continual improvement of highest student achievement, even if a superintendent has conflicting interests. Help our athletes achieve.

"The mission of the Vinton County Local School District is to prepare all students of all ages to meet, to the best of their abilities, the academic, social, cultural, civic, and employment needs of the 21st Century by creating learning communities that emphasize the life-long skills and knowledge necessary to continue learning, communicate clearly, solve problems, use information and technology effectively, enjoy productive employment, appreciate aesthetics, and meet their obligations as citizens in a democratic and global society."

If the above is Vinton County High School's mission statement, then the goal is to clearly allow soccer in Vinton County Schools. All students include those who wish to play soccer and there are more than just a few. If it is your mission to prepare ***all*** students, then you must include those who wish to play soccer and provide them the resources to play! **We support soccer for our schools. We ask you to support soccer for our schools. We ask that you take action now to bring soccer to the students of the Vinton County Local Schools. Let us all strive together for excellence! Let us work together to keep our school mission strong.**

Supporting soccer for our schools,