Regular Board Meeting - Public Comment (Online Submissions)
Date: November 12, 2026

First Name (Optional)	Last Name (Optional)	Is this comment related to an item on the agenda?	Agenda Item
Colleen	Casillas	N/A	N/A

Please write your comment:

Formal Concern Regarding Gender Equity and Unequal Support for CHS Girls Flag Football

To: Claremont Unified School District Board of Education

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the significant lack of support, resources, and equitable treatment afforded to the Claremont High School girls flag football program compared to the boys' athletic programs.

With more than 60 girls participating across three teams, this is a program with tremendous interest, commitment, and potential. Unfortunately, the level of support it receives from the athletic department and district does not reflect the size of the program or the dedication of its athletes, families, and coaches.

Coaching Resources and Season Preparation

Currently, the girls flag football program has only two coaches responsible for three teams. By comparison, our neighboring rival, Bonita High School, has seven coaches supporting two teams. This disparity significantly impacts the amount of instruction, individual attention, and preparation our athletes receive.

The disadvantage begins before the season even starts. Bonita begins tryouts the day after school gets out for summer, while our girls were unable to begin tryouts until the end of July. With our first game scheduled for the second week of August, our athletes had very little time to prepare for competition. They entered the season behind neighboring programs and without adequate preparation time, through no fault of their coaches, who are working with the limited resources and support provided to them.

These are not minor administrative differences. They directly affect the development and competitive opportunities of our student-athletes.

Unequal Access to Facilities and Athletic Resources

The disparities extend beyond coaching and preparation. There appears to be a consistent pattern in which the needs of the boys' programs are prioritized over those of the girls.

The boys' football program has a significantly larger coaching staff and has effectively claimed use of the snack bar, even during the off-season when other athletic programs, including soccer and summer track, could benefit from access to that space.

Additionally, girls flag football coaches have been instructed to use the boys' locker room on game days because there is no conveniently located locker room available for the girls. This is particularly concerning when the boys' football players are also using that facility.

Female athletes should have appropriate, accessible facilities of their own. They should not be expected to work around the needs of the boys' programs simply because adequate accommodations have not been made.

Practice Field Scheduling and Prioritization

Perhaps the most concerning example of this inequity is the treatment of scheduled practice time.

When girls flag football has designated practice time on the field and the boys' football program needs to reschedule its practice, the girls are the ones displaced. They are pushed off their scheduled field and left to find inadequate alternative practice space or lose valuable practice time altogether.

This should not be happening.

Once practice time has been assigned to a program, that commitment should be respected. If the boys' football program needs to make scheduling adjustments, those adjustments should not automatically come at the expense of the girls. The boys' program should be expected to use alternative space or make other arrangements rather than continually displacing the girls.

The Bigger Picture: The Future of Girls Athletics at CHS

I believe we need to take a serious look at how girls' athletics are viewed and prioritized at Claremont High School.

At times, the lack of attention and investment makes it difficult not to question whether girls flag football is viewed as a legitimate competitive athletic program deserving of development, or simply as an extracurricular activity that is nice to have. There is a perception that the program is treated as less important, and the current disparity in resources and opportunities only reinforces that concern.

Girls flag football is experiencing tremendous growth nationally. College programs are expanding, scholarship opportunities are increasing, and young female athletes now have the opportunity to pursue this sport at increasingly competitive levels. These are meaningful opportunities that our students should be able to pursue.

My own daughter is a talented athlete with the potential to accomplish great things in this sport. However, talent and ambition need to be matched with proper coaching, preparation, facilities, and institutional support. I want her, and every other girl in this program, to have the opportunity to reach her full potential.

Bonita High School provides a nearby example of what a more developed and supported girls flag football program can look like. Rather than falling further behind, Claremont should be looking at

successful neighboring programs and asking what needs to change to provide our athletes with comparable opportunities.

We are already seeing the consequences of this disparity. I personally know several female athletes who have left or chosen other programs because they believe they will receive better opportunities and support elsewhere. Losing female athletes to neighboring schools because of inadequate support should be a serious concern for the district.

With more than 60 girls and their families invested in this program, this is not an isolated concern or the dissatisfaction of one parent. It is an opportunity for the district to recognize a growing program and invest in its future.

Requested District Action

I am asking the Claremont Unified School District to take the following concerns seriously and provide a clear plan for addressing them:

1. Coaching resources: Evaluate the staffing needs of the girls flag football program and provide adequate coaching support across all three teams.
2. Season preparation: Establish a more competitive and consistent timeline for tryouts and preseason preparation so our athletes are not placed at a disadvantage before the season begins.
3. Facility access: Ensure girls have appropriate locker room accommodations and equitable access to shared athletic facilities, including the snack bar.
4. Protected practice time: Establish and enforce scheduling policies that prevent girls' programs from routinely losing their assigned field time to accommodate boys' programs.
5. Athletic department oversight: Review how coaching resources, facilities, scheduling, and administrative support are allocated across boys' and girls' athletic programs to ensure equitable treatment.
6. Accountability and follow-through: Provide a written response outlining what steps the district and school administration will take to address these concerns.

I want to be clear: I am not asking for special treatment. I am asking for equal treatment, equal consideration, and equal opportunity.

Our girls deserve to know that their athletic achievements matter, that their programs are valued, and that their school is invested in their success. Their coaches are doing their best, their families are committed, and the athletes are showing up ready to compete. It is time for the district and athletic department to demonstrate that same commitment.

It is disappointing that in 2026 we are still having to advocate for such basic equity in high school athletics. The district has an opportunity to correct these disparities, retain talented female athletes, and build a girls flag football program that Claremont can be proud of.

I respectfully request that these concerns be addressed and that meaningful, measurable steps be taken to ensure our female athletes receive the resources, facilities, and support they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Undisclosed	Undisclosed	N/A	N/A

Please write your comment:

Dear CUSD Board Members,

I am writing as a deeply disappointed parent of a Claremont High School girls flag football player. What I witnessed throughout this season was more than poor planning or unfortunate scheduling conflicts. It was a repeated pattern of unequal treatment that raises serious concerns about the district's compliance with Title IX.

Title IX is not optional. Equal opportunity for female athletes is not a favor, a privilege, or something to be provided only after the boys' programs have received everything they need. It is a legal obligation.

Throughout this season, our girls were repeatedly given secondary access to shared athletic facilities, faced inconsistent practice opportunities, and were expected to accommodate the needs of other programs at the expense of their own development. Their practices were moved, shortened, or disrupted, while they were left to make the best of whatever space and time remained.

This was not a single scheduling inconvenience. It appeared to be a pattern, and one that deserves serious examination under Title IX.

What I find particularly troubling is the lack of leadership and support from the athletic director. Facility scheduling, equitable access, and adequate support for athletic programs are administrative responsibilities. Yet throughout this season, our girls appeared to be an afterthought at best.

Girls flag football is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, and the growth of Claremont's own program reflects that excitement. These girls are eager to participate, compete, and represent their school. Rather than embracing that growth and ensuring the program had the resources to succeed, the athletic department repeatedly failed to provide the support these athletes deserved.

I cannot speak to the athletic director's personal beliefs about girls in sports. But I can speak to what his actions, or lack of action, communicated to our families. When female athletes are consistently expected to accept less, when their practice opportunities are treated as expendable, and when their needs appear to receive little administrative attention, the message is unmistakable: their athletic experience is not being given equal priority.

That is unacceptable.

It is especially disappointing that the girls' coaches were left trying to make the season work despite obstacles that should have been addressed at the administrative level. Our daughters were

fortunate to have a coach who continued advocating for them, but a coach's dedication should never have to compensate for a lack of institutional support.

I am asking the Board to do more than acknowledge these concerns. I am asking for a meaningful review of the girls flag football program, including facility scheduling, allocation of practice time, administrative decision-making, and whether female athletes were afforded equitable opportunities under Title IX.

I also ask the Board to examine what steps district leadership took when concerns were brought forward, and why these issues were allowed to continue throughout the season.

Our daughters deserve more than verbal assurances that their opportunities matter. They deserve policies, decisions, and leadership that demonstrate it.

This season should have been a celebration of the growth of girls flag football. Instead, it left families questioning why our daughters had to fight for opportunities that should have been available to them from the beginning.

The Board has a responsibility to ensure that the district's commitment to equity extends beyond words.

Our girls deserve equal opportunity. Not leftover opportunities. Not whatever is convenient. Equal opportunity.

I sincerely hope the Board takes these concerns seriously and ensures that no future group of female athletes has to experience what our daughters did this season. Thank you for your time.

First Name (Optional)	Last Name (Optional)	Is this comment related to an item on the agenda?	Agenda Item
Gabriela	Gonzalez	N/A	N/A

Please write your comment:

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Girls Flag Football Program

Dear CUSD Board Members,

As a parent of a Claremont High School girls flag football player, I want to express my deep disappointment in how this season unfolded, and more importantly, in the lack of support these girls received from the athletic department.

It was clear, even from the outside looking in, that our girls were not being treated fairly. They were not given equitable access to shared athletic facilities, consistent practice opportunities, or the same level of consideration afforded to other programs. Time and again, it felt like the girls were expected to take whatever was left over. And frankly, those leftovers were barely scraps.

These girls showed up ready to work, compete, learn, and represent their school. They deserved an athletic department that was just as committed to their success as they were. Instead, they were repeatedly asked to make do with less.

I am especially disappointed in the athletic director. Ensuring that student-athletes have fair access to facilities, resources, and opportunities should be a fundamental responsibility of that position. From a parent's perspective, that responsibility was not fulfilled this season. Our daughters should never have been made to feel like their sport was an afterthought.

What makes this even more frustrating is that these girls were part of a growing program with so much potential. This should have been a season of opportunity, excitement, and growth. Instead, it became a season of unnecessary obstacles and disappointment.

If there is one thing I am grateful for, it is that our girls had a coach who refused to give up on them, even when it felt like the athletic department had. Someone continued to show up, advocate for them, and remind them that they mattered. Every one of these girls deserved that kind of commitment from the entire athletic department, not just their coach.

This is not simply about wins and losses. It is about fairness, opportunity, leadership, and the message we send our daughters about their value as athletes.

I hope the school board takes these concerns seriously and looks closely at how this program was managed. Our girls deserve more than scraps. They deserve equal consideration, meaningful support, and an athletic department that is invested in their success.

They deserved better this season, and the girls who come after them deserve better moving forward.