



## **Important Message to Families, Coaches, and Staff**

Our administrative team recognizes the current state of the district and the needs of our community. However, we are optimistic about our future plans because we are grounded in providing the best opportunities for our students and community. We are developing a robust plan to meet the financial needs of our programs. The Administrative team is actively working to protect athletics and activities across the district. Programs have never operated solely through district funding. Our commitment is to continue offering all programs this coming school year through unified efforts on behalf of our students and programs.

Here are the highlights:

- Students remain the priority.
- All programs that operated this past school year will continue for the upcoming year.
- We believe that athletics and activities are critical to student success, connection, and school culture.
- Programs have always operated through a variety of funding sources.
- All programs will need to participate in fundraising efforts moving forward to help ensure program stability.
- The goal is sustainability, not reduction.
- District leadership is developing a structured and equitable plan for fundraising support.
- There are many ongoing efforts being made by the school district to increase district funding via grants, community initiatives, improved financial responsibility, and more; these efforts will continue.
- We are committed to improving communication and ensuring building leaders, coaches, and stakeholders remain informed throughout the process.
- **A “one team” approach across all schools and programs is necessary moving forward!**

We understand there are concerns and rumors circulating. We ask everyone to slow down, seek accurate information from the appropriate sources, and avoid assumptions while plans are being finalized. Clear communication and teamwork are essential as we move forward together.

Our students deserve strong programs and that is what we will provide!

## **FALSE versus FACT**

FALSE: Coaches and sponsors must fundraise in order to receive their stipends FACT: Coaching and Sponsor stipends are a tier 1 priority and will be paid.

FALSE: Coaches and sponsors are expected to individually fund their stipends FACT: All coaching and sponsor stipends are a tier 1 priority and will be paid.

FALSE: Programs are fundraising independently in order to ensure their program can operate FACT: Programs are not competing against one another, we will be working collaboratively as a district team.

FALSE: All teams and programs must devise their own plan to fundraise their budget. FACT: The district is building a coordinated fundraising system.

FALSE: This is an activities and athletics problem that can only be solved by raising fees. FACT: Leadership will continue reviewing policies and procedures to better support all programs and operate with fiscal transparency with priorities grounded in our strategic plan.

We appreciate the questions, concerns and passionate response to this important issue. We are your partners in finding the best answers and solutions as we support our entire district and do what is right for our children. Please join us for a town hall meeting on Tuesday, June 2 from 6:30 - 7:30 in the Woodland Park Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium.

Respectfully,

Your Jr./Sr. High School Administrative Team and Partners

(Cat Becker, Michelle Eastman, Katie Rexford, Brad Page, and Ginger Slocum)