

RIDGEWOOD LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
Administrative Building
301 S. Oak Street, West Lafayette, Ohio 43845

Public Participation

1. Rachel Stroup – 16264 TR 118, Kimbolton

I have with me letters and petition that are being passed around about Coach Dolick and want to know if the board has seen it. Mr. Mathews stated he has not and asked if a copy could be made for the board (Ms. Stroup provided the letter for copies to be made). She said it's saddens her to be able to say that what is written is true. Where it says that it is hard for parents and students to come forward is true. As a parent who has had children play, I understand the frustration from the unfortunate events that recently have taken place. Ridgewood is always promoting/selling a "Family Atmosphere" but it is not displayed this way. Mr. Mathews asked if the letter was signed and that her being at the meeting meant more than an unsigned letter. I wanted to come earlier but my kids begged me not to say anything. I have an additional son who doesn't want to play because he saw what was done to his older brother. Even now I asked my older boys if they wanted to sign the petition and don't feel like it matters.

2. Walter Bates – 15930 TR 118, Kimbolton

I'm going to pick up where she (Ms. Stroup) left off. She was talking about my grandson. I saw him score 20-25 points one night and the next night watch 95% of the back of his head on the bench. The guy I was sitting with, who is no longer with us, I told him that a man ought to do exactly what the man did over here 2 weeks ago. A couple of years ago we had 1 or 2 pre-Madonna's who got away with everything. One game a player just kept dribble around, thinking he was Michael Jordan, running time off the clock and we were down by 12 points. What little I know about basketball, the balls gotta go in the hoop. We were takin the ball out of bounds walk up the court, this shows my ignorance about the game, I wondered what was going on and she straightened me out (Ms. Stroup). We aren't touching the ball so the clock won't start. I thought what's the point in that since we allowed all of the time to run off the clock with all of that dribbling. Then another guy told me I missed the point of the season it is about 1 player so he can score his 1,000 points. Let everyone play since we aren't close to getting to the state. I get it if you are good then maybe you only play your 5 guys. My youngest grandson asked me what I thought about him playing basketball and I told him that it's the same coach and you saw what he did to your brother.

3. Marcy Lockard – 19138 TR 5, West Lafayette

I am here tonight to talk about all sports and not just basketball. It's about a lot of the coaches. I have had 2 boys who are pretty good athletes. They have quit baseball and football in the past due to coaches. Now they're in high school and they figure they will try it again. These coaches are not coaching the way they should be, they are destroying our youth. My son contemplated suicide (he's good today, gaining back his weight and his mental health) and he is a strong willed kid because on what Coach Dolick has said to him. My son begged us to not say anything until he finally said I can't take it anymore and that's when we stepped in. Last year we met with the coach and thought we had thing ironed out but this year it was full force. Mrs. Lockard stated they had come to Mr. Smoulder and Mr. Masloski and nothing was done. You call in the boys to discuss the situation but you call in the adults as well, everyone ganging up on them. Don't these coaches know that kids are intimidated by adults. These coaches are out of control and it has to stop. My son started have seizures and it finally came out. Coach Dolick told him he was to fat and he need to lose weight so he would be faster on the court. Then you got football saying you gotta gain weight, you gotta be bigger, why can't they just accept them as they are, how they're built and what they can do? These coaches are labeling the kids. Coach Dolick told Maverick that he was un-coachable and said this ain't the "Maverick Lockard Show", no one came to see you. She told Maverick you're not playing anymore and you will quit. We'll schedule a meeting and

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go through the proper chains but I guess it wasn't fast enough for my husband. I apologize for that. When he talks about it, he breaks down in tears because he feels like he has let down his boy 2 year ago and that his boy doesn't love him anymore. It's got to stop. Everyone of you is in the position to stop this. He has had in the past, I don't know if he does it anymore but he has had the little girls sitting on his lap while giving them lessons. Mr. Masloski stated you need to be careful with what you say and whether if it's true. Mrs. Lockard stated she knows it to be true because the child told them herself. My son had to take a "Wet Floor" sign so he would get called to the office so he could tell his side of the story. We don't feel like any one is listening we want you to listen.

4. Cara Wilden – 51633 TR 146, Coshocton

I am here this evening to discuss an issue between my son and Mr. McCrea. Mr. McCrea was at a student desk bending over helping a student but his backside was in my son's face. My son said something and Mr. McCrea didn't even acknowledge that anything was said. It happened a second time but this time my son placed his hands on Mr. McCrea's hips and pushed him away. Mr. McCrea belittled my son and then asked why he did that and my son said "your ass is in my face". He was called to the office and given 10 days at the alternative school and nothing was done to the teacher. I called Mr. Masloski and he returned my call. He was screaming at me saying that he was going to increase the punishment. My son was the one who received the punishment and I was told that there could be additional punishment if there were any charges filed.

5. Lacy McCombs – 20061 TR 124, West Lafayette

I want to talk about the culture here at Ridgewood. When I went here I couldn't tell you one teacher who wasn't dressed in their "Sunday Best". The dress of some of the teachers is not professional. They weren't their friends but our teacher. It all begins with conduct. There is a Code of Conduct for students and teachers. There are inappropriate things in the classrooms occurring. We had something happen a couple weeks ago, in the classroom, so we'll see what happens. Just last season, there were some people who were trying to get the "Lady" part of Lady Generals removed. We must have this as this is what distinguishes the girl's programs. The girls are just important as the boys. The culture is turning to a culture of retaliation. People are afraid to speak due to retaliation. It's time to do and standup for what is right.

6. Lavone Robinson – 432 E. Russell Ave, West Lafayette

I wasn't planning on speaking but I just want to say that I back up what everyone has said. This is hard on the kids and something needs to be done.

7. Leah Wilson – 711 Cambridge Rd., Coshocton

I just want to say the Coach Dolick belittles his players and kids. He is unapproachable and doesn't communicate. I have had a number of conversations with Mr. Smoulder about this. I want you to know that I have no issues with Mr. Smoulder.