



Missouri State High School Activities Association

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VIA E-MAIL

(kdecosty@stpious.com and twatson@stpious.com)

August 9, 2017

Ms. Karen DeCosty, Principal
St. Pius X (Festus)
1030 St. Pius Dr.
Festus, MO 63028-3746

Dear Ms. DeCosty:

I am writing in regard to the June 14, 2017 MSHSAA Board of Directors meeting and your school request for a lesser penalty. This letter confirms in writing the decision reached, in your presence, to grant the lesser penalty for St. Pius X High School.

The Board of Directors reviewed the MSHSAA Peer Review Committee Report dated February 20, 2017, all documentation and staff statements submitted by St. Pius in connection with their request for a lesser penalty than loss of school participation in any post-season play during the 2017-18 school year. Ms. DeCosty informed the Board that the member school accepts the finding that the school had violated MSHSAA By-Law 2.6.2.g. by the delivery of personal, hand-written note cards to a Jefferson R-7 student athlete by head football coach Jerry Woods under a procedure approved by Father Edward Nemeth which has been discontinued since the Peer Review Committee Report. By letter dated March 29, 2017, the school admitted an "oversight" and "lack of due diligence" in use of their basketball facilities by the organizer of a 3 on 3 basketball tournament which required fixing internal processes to avoid "repeated incidents" and an "appearance of impropriety in the future." Finally, in the above letter to this Board, St. Pius admitted disappointment that a former member of its basketball staff had shown a "lack of credibility or integrity" in answering questions by the Peer Review Committee. St. Pius has indicated in its letter that it would "accept a period of probation in order to demonstrate our continued commitment to the highest standards of accepting and enrolling students."

Following discussion in Executive Session, the Board of Directors took final action on the request by St. Pius for the above reasons. Motion Finley, second Johnson, to place St. Pius X High School on probation for the 2017-18 school year with conditions of probation including: 1) the school shall withhold head football coach Jerry Woods for 2 football games during 2017-18 school year, and 2) the school shall withhold head boys basketball coach Eric Lawrence for either 5 regular-season varsity basketball games or all post-season basketball games at the school's choice. Motion passed 9-1 on a roll call vote with members Churchwell, Soden, Hill, Wilson, Schmidt, Johnson, Linneman, Dittmore, and Finley voting yes, and Beem voting no.

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Therefore, I ask that you report to me, in advance, which contests Coach Woods and Coach Lawrence will be withheld. It is my opinion that your request for a lesser penalty has been resolved for the school and any violations during the 2017-18 School Year need to be self-reported immediately to the MSHSAA Office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerwin Urhahn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Dr. Kerwin Urhahn
MSHSAA Executive Director

KU:kl

cc: Mr. Tilden Watson, Athletic Director, St. Pius X (Festus) High School