



LYNDEN

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tradition + Pride + Excellence

September 5, 2024

Senator Sharon Shoemake
213 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40442
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator Shoemake-

As members of the Lynden School District's Board of Directors, we are deeply committed to ensuring that every student is valued, included, and has the opportunity to fully engage in all school activities, including sports. However, we've recently encountered some challenges that need thoughtful consideration of leaders throughout the state of Washington. The inclusion of transgender athletes assigned male at birth, competing in female sports categories has brought up important concerns about fairness, safety, and maintaining a level playing field for our female athletes. Following the 2A State Track & Field Championships in May, our June 20 board meeting included very strong communications from citizens imploring us to do something to protect girls' sports.

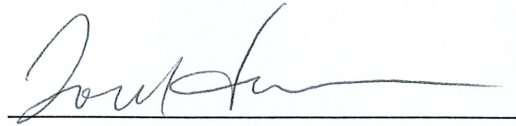
In light of these concerns, we respectfully request your support in changing current legislation to provide clear guidance on the participation of transgender athletes in school sports. This legislative change should ensure that policies uphold fairness in competition while protecting the rights and dignity of all students.

Specifically, we propose the following considerations for legislative action:

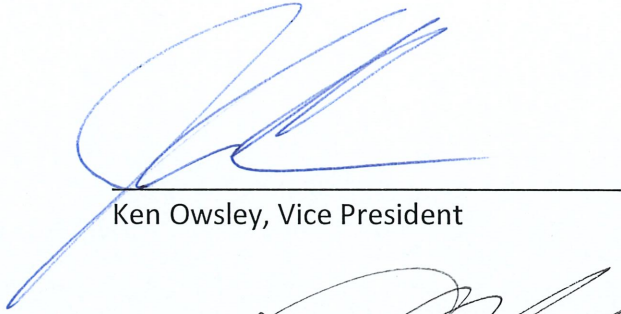
1. **Legislative Review and Guidance:** We urge you to initiate a thorough review of existing laws and offer clear legislative guidance on how school districts can navigate the participation of transgender athletes in sports. This guidance should be informed by scientific evidence and give consideration to what other states are doing to maintain fair competition for all students.
2. **Support for Equitable Practices:** Advocate for legislative measures that allow transgender athletes opportunities to participate in sports, while also implementing necessary safeguards to ensure fair competition for girls. Work collaboratively with school districts to develop inclusive policies that uphold the competitive integrity of girls' sports.

By partnering with legislators, we're confident we can find balanced solutions that promote inclusivity while keeping our school sports safe, fair, and competitive. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue that impacts our students and community. We're eager to continue this conversation and work towards legislative changes that benefit all students in the Lynden School District.

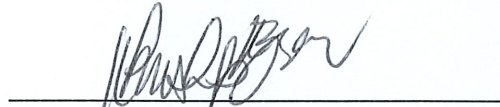
Sincerely,
Lynden School District Board of Directors



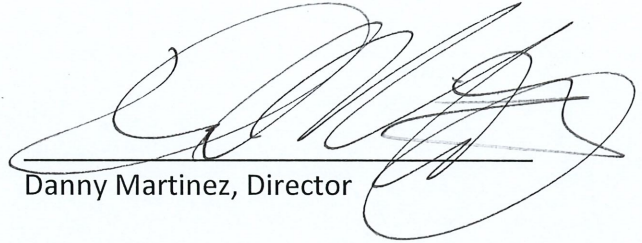
Tonya Hickman, President



Ken Owsley, Vice President



Khush Brar, Director



Danny Martinez, Director



Jim Verburg, Director