



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Representative Jayme Davis

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February 4, 2023

Dear Mr. Fetsch,

This letter is in reference to the varsity high school basketball game between Jamestown High School and Bismarck High School on Tuesday, January 31; where racial slurs and taunting occurred toward student athletes of color.

As I'm sure you are aware of the NDHSAA *minimal* behavior expectations guidelines state:

- Contesting schools shall each have an authorized faculty representative present who shall be responsible for his/her school's participants, students, and fans throughout the contest.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, trash talk, name-calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be *immediately* addressed by school/tournament administrators.

On February 2 of the online edition of the *Fargo Forum* in an article titled "Racial taunting" at North Dakota basketball game prompts call for harsher consequences." Where a parent stated, "he tried to talk to administrators, but nothing was done about the taunting, and he felt helpless." He continued, "I just witnessed you (administrator) go confront a grown man for about two minutes on how to conduct himself, yet you have these racist kids over here making 'effing monkey noises while my son shoots free throws, and that's okay with you?"

I ask you, Mr. Fetsch, why these *minimal* behavior expectations were not met? Our student athletes and community members should not have to worry about being verbally attacked during a school function. I know these incidents are to be handled at the local level but when they fail it is up to the NDHSAA to hold them accountable. I ask you again, what is being done to correct this and make sure it never happens again.

I make a recommendation for a zero-tolerance policy to be implemented where if/when administrators fail to take swift action that there be a penalty for their inaction.

I am available for further conversation if needed and will be waiting for your response.

Thank you,
Representative Jayme Davis
District 9A
Anishinaabe/Lakota