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Blue Ridge District

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Valley District



ANNA L. WEDDLE, Vice-Chair
Amsterdam District

DANA McCALEB
Fincastle District

Dr. JONATHAN D. RUSS
Superintendent

Superintendent's Update – December 29, 2020

Dear Student-Athletes and Parents:

On November 24, 2020, I released a [statement](#) that we entered an agreement with six other surrounding school divisions regarding the criteria that would be used to determine if schools would be permitted to engage in athletic competition. Although I do not regret this decision, and understand and respect the decisions of the regional division superintendents, I am informing you that Botetourt County Public Schools will withdraw from this agreement effective Monday, January 4, 2021.

The decision to withdraw from the agreement was not made in haste. I acknowledge that we continue to experience a spike in COVID-19 cases; however, continuing to operate using our day-to-day mitigation plan, Phase III guidelines provided by the Virginia High School League, and the Governor's executive orders regarding the number of spectators allowed at events, I feel that we can safely participate in athletic competitions.

Parents, the decision to allow your student-athlete to participate is totally your choice. If you elect to have your student participate in some, none, or all of an athletic season, there will be no retribution whatsoever.

I must remind you that there will inevitably be disruptions to athletic events that are scheduled due to divisions currently suspending play for their respective divisions. As stated above, I fully respect the decision of other school divisions electing not to participate at this time.

Additionally, if at any time I feel it would be in our best interest to suspend play for a period of time, or even an entire season, I will not hesitate to make that call. The health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and administrators continues to be the highest priority.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan D. Russ".

Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.
Superintendent