October 19, 2026

Erich Martens, Executive Director
Minnesota State High School League
2100 Freeway Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1735

Dear Executive Director Martens:

I am writing on behalf of Bemidji Area Schools, ISD 31, regarding the proposed amendment to the Minnesota State High School League Bylaws concerning eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics.

We understand that at least five MSHSL member school districts have already submitted the proposed amendment to the League, meeting the threshold necessary to initiate the member-school review process outlined in the MSHSL Constitution. Bemidji Area Schools supports allowing that established process to move forward.

At the heart of our support is a simple principle: we believe all MSHSL member schools should have an opportunity to be heard.

We recognize that this is an important and complex issue and that member schools and communities may hold differing perspectives. Those differences make broad participation in the process even more important. The MSHSL is a member-driven organization, and matters of statewide significance benefit from opportunities for member schools to review proposals, ask questions, provide input, engage in thoughtful discussion, and participate in the decision-making process established by the League.

Our support for moving this proposal forward should not be interpreted as criticism of the League, its Board, or member schools that may hold differing views, nor is this letter intended to predetermine the ultimate outcome of the proposed amendment. Rather, our interest is in ensuring that the voices of member schools across Minnesota have an opportunity to be heard through the governance process established for that purpose.

Accordingly, Bemidji Area Schools respectfully supports the continued consideration of the proposed amendment through the applicable MSHSL Region and Representative Assembly processes and timelines.

We appreciate the work of the Minnesota State High School League and its member schools in providing opportunities for students throughout Minnesota. Thank you for your leadership and for supporting a governance process that encourages participation, dialogue, and representation from the League's membership.

Sincerely,

Dave Wall
Designated School Representative
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MSHSL Region 8AA
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