

25 Oct 12

Dear Board of Trustees,

I would like to present a concern related to the Distinguished Young Women's Program. This year, our County's Distinguished Young Woman was "benched" for Senior night and did not play at all for the entire last home game. This was done because she had missed the prior week due to her representation of our county at the State Distinguished Young Women's program.

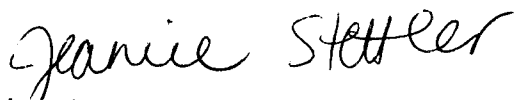
I would like to request that a policy be developed so that the school athletic department would handle the Distinguished Young Women's representative the same way that the academic department handles it. The teachers and the school have always considered those absences as excused. All homework is allowed to be made up without any deductions in the grading.

The Distinguished Young Women's program is supported by the school and sponsored by the community. The Distinguished Young Woman has a responsibility to represent our community at the state level. By punishing her for fulfilling this responsibility, we are sending the wrong signal to our youth. The school and community should always foster and reward responsible behavior and give consequences for irresponsible behavior. When athletes are flunking their classes, they sit the bench. Do we honestly want to give the same punishment for a young woman who has been chosen to represent our county in an academic scholarship program at the state level?

Our school district should strive to send clear messages to children. If they demonstrate responsible behavior, display integrity, and are representing the school in a positive way, they should be rewarded. If they flunk, break school rules, display poor sportsmanship, or exhibit other negative behaviors, they should suffer consequences such as sitting the bench.

For these reasons, I would like to request a policy be put in place so the DYW representative at state will not be punished in athletics for being selected to represent our county at the state level.

Thank you.



Jeanie Stettler

Concerned Member of the Community of Soda Springs