



SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 6:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Glastonbury Town Hall

2155 Main Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Hearing 6:00PM
 - A. Hearing on Potential Summer Athletic Program
4. Business Requiring Action
 - A. Potential Action on a Pilot Summer 2024 Athletic Program
5. Adjournment
 - A. Please note: It is possible that the Board of Education may go into Executive Session

Public Comments for BOE Meeting (Responses) 2024

Timestamp	Your Full Name	Your STREET Address	Your Comment to be attached to the agenda of the next Glastonbury Board of Education meeting. NOTE: This field accepts up to 2500 characters. Please submit a second response to this form if you require additional text.
5/15/2024 8:49:07	Corey Morrison	157 Millstone Rd	I am wondering if coaches are liable for injuries that occur during summer workouts, and if coaches will be compensated for the additional time? It sounds to me this is one of those "to stay competitive coaches should do this...but we aren't going to pay you for it." Coaches are already told their low pay is due to it being voluntary.
5/27/2024 18:57:44	Renata Kozak	70 zenith lane	I support summer football coaching program by GHS coaches.
5/27/2024 19:58:00	Matt Herzog	235 Country Lane	Our family supports the Glastonbury coaches' recommendation (the ones we've heard from) to work with athletes during the summer as permitted by CIAC. If Glastonbury doesn't, others will and this will put Glastonbury athletics at a significant disadvantage. Physical activity is also critical to children's well-being especially when screen time competes and fills every second of kids' free time. Sounds like a low-pressure option that allows student-athletes to still have family vacations, summer jobs, etc., can continue as usual while getting some summer training. Why not!
5/27/2024 20:09:20	Betsy Reed	259 Leigh Gate Road	I want to express my support for the Glastonbury High School coaches to be a part of the summer training of our athletes. I know my son will find the coach led summer training sessions extremely helpful as he heads into his junior year of football. I also feel that to stay competitive with the other football teams, it's imperative to allow our coaches to hold practice sessions throughout the summer. Teams will benefit from specialized training over the course of the summer much more than just two weeks prior to the start of the season. Building strong relationships between the players and the coaches will strengthen their skill set and ultimately increase their success on the field.
5/28/2024 7:43:04	Leslie Golemba	804 Neipsic Road	I fully support the CIAC change to allow our football team to practice skills this summer and ask this be approved. It will better prepare our team for the season, allowing more time and focus to further develop skills and safe playing techniques. This will also allow them to be of equal training time with other schools in the league supporting this change. Please approve.
5/28/2024 8:03:26	David Mitchell	1252 Main Street Glaston	Re: CIAC purposed by-law change to out-of-season contact. As a former coach in Glastonbury in multiple sports approving this change is vital for the continued growth and development of our student athletes. For our athletes to have the ability to continue learning and training under the guidance of certified coaches provides them the opportunity for greater success on and off the field. Please vote to approve this change. Thank You. The Mitchell family.
5/28/2024 8:39:05	Matteo Mario Luzi	72 Northview Dr.	As a current player for the Glastonbury Football team, I believe our schools athletic programs should have the choice to hold practices during summer break. This would help any team out as their athletes can stay in a good mental and physical shape.
5/28/2024 15:49:27	Anthony Casdia	78 Drumlin Road South G	Dear Glastonbury Board of Education, I support Glastonbury High School adopting and implementing the recently approved rule changes by CIAC allowing for coaches to provide skill development to players during the summer. I do so for the following reasons: 1.Coach oversight will provide for a safer and more organized athletic experience for participating athletes. 2.The formal presence of coaches, even though athlete participation is voluntary, encourages athletes to engage versus staring at their phones or video game consoles. 3.Lastly, this initiative will help Glastonbury to stay competitive with other adopting towns which is positive for the morale of the athletes and the student body as a whole. Respectfully submitted, Anthony Casdia
5/28/2024 18:18:31	Christine Gherard	1668 Manchester Rd	As parents of a GHS varsity football player, we would like to voice our support for the change in the CIAC bylaws that allows for coaching in the off season. - Christine & Nick Gherard
5/28/2024 21:21:54	Nicholas Filiault	1492 Main Street	The allowance of sport related practice or for my case is a huge piece of us being successful as a team and as a program. The idea is to have a great successful season and without the allowance of being able to participate in sports related practice will put us at a disadvantage to other teams who will have the opportunity to do this. However if we utilize these practices that are being given to us we can be ready out the gates to have a more successful season.
5/28/2024 21:28:08	Eli Lawrence	259 Leigh Gate Road	For the 2024 season our program has the chance to do something special. We all are beyond passionate and truly believe we can get back to the playoffs if we work hard enough and strive to be great. If we are not able to practice in the summer we will have a massive and unfair disadvantage to our opponents. With summer practice we can install our plays, build chemistry and get better individually and as a team. The team needs to practice and use this opportunity so we can have success as a program.
5/28/2024 21:35:32	Luke lavery	142 pennywise lane	I believe that installing summer practices will be beneficial to not just GHS, but to all towns and sports. Making summer practice available will level the playing field for schools who do not have access to other coaches or facilities to provide off season practice. This will be beneficial to everyone.
5/29/2024 7:46:10	Connor Finnerty	130 Carriage Dr	I play baseball and football at Glastonbury high school. Practice is extremely important towards success and development. Up until 2nd grade I lived in Florida where not only do they have summer practice but they are playing their main sport all year round. Florida is the second highest NFL player producing state behind Texas, and has 173 more current NFL players than Ct. I'm not asking for us to be like Florida, but summer practices give every sport a chance to know their playbook, signs, or formation. There is no substitute for live shagging in baseball, or as a quarterback throwing with 11 players on defense. Summer practices provide the opportunity to develop more prepared athletes along with a stronger bond with the program.
5/29/2024 9:01:15	Reese Meister	49 Stanly Drive	I believe the summer practices would significantly positively affect people trying to get better and play more of the sport they love and I believe it is very important we get this change as it would benefit all athletes significantly especially if you need some extra practice

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5/29/2024 9:35:27	Myles Harris	64 fern st	Hi my name is Myles and I think we should have summer practices because I think that doing the hard work and putting the effort would make all of us have a successful season at all levels (Freshman JV Varsity). Nothing will work unless you do and hard work will beat talent if that talent doesn't work hard enough.
5/29/2024 10:03:17	Ryan Jackson	802 Goodale Hill rd	As a Varsity football player, I feel that practice time during the summer could only improve the performance of our athletic programs at GHS. Not only would this allow teams to grow in their ability, but also help to form stronger bonds within those teams. Those that have been a part of team sports know the importance of connection among players. A team's ability to perform as a cohesive unit can oftentimes determine the outcome on the field. Designated practice times during the summer would also allow players to further develop important skills that they might not obtain on their own. For me, and many others on my team, the ability to learn and practice under the supervision of professionals would be a welcome chance to "get 1% everyday." It would also help to level the playing field as some FCIAC programs have been able to bypass these rules in the past. This has been done through the use of indoor practice facilities during the winter and in some places, complete disregard for the rule entirely. I feel that the number of positives for this to be passed outweigh the few (if any) negatives and that the choice should be simple. Thank you for your consideration.
5/29/2024 10:27:22	Lisa Mendum	45 Candlewood Road	<p>The Parent Square message today and Trish Witkin's recent presentation made it clear that family, vacation time and summer jobs should remain priority. A recent Citizen article quotes Dr Bookman saying "If you don't do it, you put your own teams at a disadvantage" and "We think by the second year they probably will because they will find themselves at a disadvantage".</p> <p>We need to be clear with the message being given to students and coaches that downtime is the priority. Families may feel pressured now to change plans for fear of missing out or that their child may be unfairly treated if they don't attend. If a student participates through summer and shows significant growth in their sport, I imagine it will be difficult for coaches to not select/favor that student above another. I could see this aspect potentially being difficult for all parties.</p> <p>Another significant concern is heat. I would hope outside practices will only be scheduled early or late. For practices on the artificial turf field, when exposed to direct sunlight, the plastic turf absorbs and retains heat and surface temperature can easily be in the 150 degrees fahrenheit range. With this in mind I would like to ask that we seriously consider not using the turf field during peak heat hours (early morning and evening only).</p> <p>My incoming sophomore would take part in summer training when she is available because it means I wont pay for the same practices out of town, saving money and transportation time. From an equity standpoint, obviously there are many advantages financially to students but for towns who's BoE finances can't come up with the money to pay for summer coaches, I can see this being a difficult topic.</p> <p>One other consideration that may be impossible to plan logistically is access for our Open Choice students. Summer training would be a terrific offering for them but I fear like always, lack of transportation may still exempt them unfortunately.If there is anything we can do to get Open Choice kids here, please lets do it. This will be money well spent.</p> <p>Thank you all for carefully weighing up all aspects of this potential change and to Ms Witkin and others who have already put in considerable effort.</p>
5/29/2024 11:48:53	Amy Farina	53 Curtis Rd	<p>I am a parent of two rising sophomores on the GHS football team and I am in full support of the CIAC Summer coaching program. It would give coaches to give Football specific training and skills development individually and as a team. Most of our competitors will be making use of this program and by not Offering the program to our students, they will be put at a huge disadvantage. I speak confidently for my sons when I say that they not only welcome, but desire the opportunity to work with their headcoach and his team this summer. As a parent, I appreciate the fact that practice is not mandatory. However, as student athletes, my sons intend to attend each session and devote their time to individual and team training & development. We as a family do not see it as a burden, but rather an opportunity that will allow for success and growth in their sports career at GHS.As the program is not mandatory, we ask that it be adopted so the student athletes who have the desire to attend are not penalized developmentally nor competitively. We are fortunate enough to have coaches that want and are willing to devote their time to their student athletes. Not only would it be a detriment to our students it would be foolish not to take advantage of this.</p>