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April 5, 2024

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Inc.

33 Forge Parkway

Franklin, MA 02038

Delivered via email to miaa@miaa.net, sdubzinski@miaa.net, bbaldwin@pittsfield.net, pnapolitano@miaa.net, sbryant@miaa.net & postal mail

To the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association:

We are reaching out to follow up on the assault that took place on Monday, March 11th, in the Final Four Division 3 game between Pittsfield High School and Old Rochester Regional. First, we apologize for being unavailable for the meeting that took place on Saturday morning, March 16th, with Malachi Perry and his family, MIAA representatives, members of the NAACP, Mayor Marchetti, and State Representative Tricia Farley Bouvier. We reviewed Representative Bouvier's summary and discussed the matter with members of our basketball team, Pittsfield High families, and community members. Our student body, student-athletes, and community seek closure, and we are hopeful that the MIAA can assist us in achieving this.

In the weeks that followed the game, we took time to reflect on the actions of our school. We are proud of our coach and basketball players for demonstrating strength in their composure and resilience by returning to the court and completing the game. We are proud of our community, which rallied behind our team and showed Malachi that the win was not the most important aspect of that night. Unfortunately, the actions of some of our students and community members did not align with the dignity and class exhibited by our team. Some took to social media, making vile comments, which were not condoned and have been addressed at our school. As an educational institution, we look at March 11th and hope to grow and learn from this day.

We are requesting the MIAA to examine the footage from March 11, considering several concerning incidents. These include our student's report of an assault, which went unaddressed by any official that evening, our request for the post-game handshake to be omitted, the lack of site management or police presence when our students were sent out into the parking lot, and the absence of a police escort for our team from the confrontational gymnasium.

After reviewing the film, we ask that you inform us how this would be handled differently in future events and what the best course of action would be for a school in our position. We hope to see our school compete with

success in the State Tournaments in the future, and we want to tell our community with confidence how this would be handled if it ever happened again.

The last time we spoke, Steve Dubzinski graciously extended an invitation to visit Pittsfield High School and engage with our team. We warmly welcome Steve and any MIAA representatives interested in visiting our school. Building a positive and cooperative relationship with the MIAA on various matters is our priority. We understand the significant benefits of athletics for our students and value the leadership opportunities they offer.

It's imperative that athletics serve as a secure and nurturing environment where our students can thrive and grow without experiencing trauma.

Respectfully,

Maggie Harrington-Esko

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