

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Richard A Green, Superintendent of Schools

October 7, 2024

LISBON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Dear Staff, Parents/Guardians and students:

This letter is an effort to provide an update and some insight to the recent hazing allegations that were reported to us late last week. Like many of you, this news has been very difficult to hear as the Lisbon and Lisbon Falls communities have always had a strong commitment and sense of pride in their schools and our athletic/co-curricular programs. It is a direct result of having this trust that we are committed to and engaged in conducting a thorough investigation into all matters related to these hazing allegations. As I have learned in recent meetings, the majority of our student athletes who were not involved are suffering the consequences and repercussions from the poor decisions and actions of a few individuals. As a community, I hope that we can come together and provide the support necessary to help them address the challenges that they are being faced with as a result of no actions of their own. The Lisbon Football Family heritage and traditions have always been strong and this will only make us stronger.

On Friday, October 4, 2024 the decision was made to suspend all Lisbon High School football related activities until further notice. This decision was based on new information that we learned through our own investigation and through the collaborative efforts with the Lisbon Police Department. As a result of the on-going investigation and the fact that the allegations involve minors, the Lisbon School Department is unable to legally share specific details related to our findings. Our inability to share detailed information has created a significant amount of confusion and frustration with our student athletes, parents, coaches and community members. Unfortunately this has also contributed to the increasing amount of misinformation being shared on social media and other outlets. As a result of the seriousness of this matter and the fact that we want to protect and provide support for our student athletes, coaches and staff, the decision has been made to hire an outside agency to conduct a full investigation into this matter. This will not only generate a final report and recommendations, but this review will also help to determine if this is an isolated incident or part of a known "culture". Although this additional investigation will take more time, we feel that it is necessary to help support and preserve the integrity and reputations of our student athletes, coaches and administrators.

These last few days have been difficult for everyone but I can assure you that student safety has and will always be our top priority. I apologize for the unnecessary confusion and concern that this matter has caused and we are committed to providing additional updates throughout this investigation. In an effort to assist us with this investigation, I would like to strongly encourage anyone who may have any information related to this matter, to please feel free to contact me directly at rgreen@lisbonschoolsme.org or at (207) 353-6711 X1005. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this difficult situation.

Sincerely,


Richard A. Green Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Lisbon School Department

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