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Request for Parent Presence at Softball Practice

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To: Robert Folk <robert.folk@cms.k12.nc.us>, Poore, Brian <brian.poore@cms.k12.nc.us>

Dear Principal Folk and Athletic Director Poore,

I wanted to share something that happened yesterday and request your help moving forward.

I met Anna at the Marvin Ridge field after Athletic Director Poore suggested that she come home and not play given her emotional state following her conversation with Athletic Director Poore and Coach Ferreri. When I arrived, she had tears in her eyes and the first thing she said to me was, "I don't know what to do. I love softball and I want to keep playing, but I don't know what to do."

Seeing her in that state was difficult. Softball has always been something she loves and looks forward to, and recently it has clearly become a source of significant stress for her.

My concern is not about a single moment. From our perspective there has been a pattern developing where interactions around the team environment are leaving players emotionally distressed. We have seen situations where players are leaving practices or conversations visibly upset, which has been troubling to watch.

Because of these ongoing concerns, and because we have not yet had an opportunity to sit down and discuss them together, I asked my wife to attend practice today so Anna would feel supported. I was also told that Coach Ferreri had indicated Anna would be expected to apologize to the team for leaving the game, and I wanted to ensure that conversation happened in a supportive way. Shortly before practice ended my wife received a call indicating the coach was requesting to close practice.

Until we have an opportunity to meet and work through these concerns, I would respectfully request that I or my wife be formally allowed to attend any softball activities involving Anna and Coach Ferreri, including practices that might otherwise be closed.

Our goal is simply to support our daughter so she can continue participating in the sport she loves in a healthy environment. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Morgan