



# OLD FORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Blue Devils"

300 Marion Street, Old Forge, PA 18518

Phone: (570) 457-6721

www.ofsd.cc

Christopher J. Gatto, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Brian Rinaldi  
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P.O. Box 2008  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0708

Frank Majikes  
President, PIAA Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 2008  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0708

March 26, 2026

Dear Mr. Byers and Mr. Majikes,

I am writing following our appearance in the PIAA Class AA Boys Basketball State Championship this past Friday at the Giant Center.

Let's start where it should start. Sewickley Academy was the better team that afternoon. They earned the win. Their players and coaches deserve full credit. This is not about the outcome of one game.

This is about a system the PIAA continues to defend that is fundamentally flawed. Old Forge is a public school drawing from a 3.4 square mile borough. Our roster is built from one community. That is the model we operate under, and it is the reality we are bound to. Our opponent operates under a completely different reality. Their roster includes student-athletes from across the country and internationally. Again, that is not an accusation. It is a fact. It is also a structural advantage that public schools simply do not have access to.

These are not comparable systems. Treating them as if they are is not competitive balance. It is willful ignorance.

For years, this issue has been raised by districts across Pennsylvania. For years, the PIAA has chosen inaction. At this point, the problem is not complexity. The problem is a refusal to act. After the game, Mr. Majikes, you approached me on the floor regarding our students holding signs that read "Old Forge Blue Devils Public School Champions," stating that "that's not what we are about."

With respect, that moment missed the point entirely.

Those students were not being disrespectful. They were expressing a truth they understand better than the organization charged with overseeing them. They know they are competing in a system that is not built on equal footing.

Danyel Boyce  
Compliance Officer

Noah E. Katz, Esquire  
Chief Legal Officer



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So again, the question needs to be asked directly: What is the PIAA about?

If it is about fairness, then the current structure fails. If it is about maintaining the status quo despite clear and growing imbalance, then say that plainly.

Our students did everything right. They worked, they competed, and they represented their school and community at the highest level. They should not have to do that within a framework that puts them at a built-in disadvantage before the game even starts.

That is why I strongly support the passage of Pennsylvania House Bill 41. If the PIAA will not address this issue internally, then it is appropriate for it to be addressed externally.

This is not about taking anything away from private schools. It is about acknowledging reality and structuring competition accordingly.

Right now, the PIAA is failing to do that.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Gatto, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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