

My name is Katie Gruber and I am here tonight to request that you Deny Tyler Enright the Head Varsity Boys basketball position and reinstate Don Gruber. You all received the information about Kewaskum AD Jerry Halopka who not only did not do his job well, but also is inadequate when it comes to evaluating coaches. Its concerning that an individual with little to no knowledge on the sport can fire a coach, especially since Don Gruber is a respected member of the community, school district, and past alumni which is evident as many took the time to write a request for his reinstatement.

Don Gruber is an alumni of Kewaskum and he has poured his heart and soul into the program as well as the school. He has generously donated financially to the facility and all sports programs over the years as it was his desire to elevate Kewaskum facility and programs to being top notch and providing the team with college level experience. Which makes it extremely disappointing that this is how Don was treated. The fact that the information that was used to fire Don Gruber was inaccurate and that there were 7 different sports programs on the survey and anyone could fill one out is unjust and carries no validity. In fact, you could fill It out repeatedly. It was obvious that the same disgruntled family filled out multiple as well as individuals that had nothing to do with the program as one person refers to him as coach Brober. This alone is asinine that these surveys along with Jerrys unjustified assessment would be used to fire Don Gruber.

I also want to make you aware that Jerry Halopka allowed racist remarks and monkey noises from opposing fans that were directed towards Antoine Coleman-Thull. You all received his personal letter regarding this issue. I was informed by Mr. Bazata that this was

handled, but the only just disciplinary action would be the immediate removal of Jerry Halopka as the Athletic Director. In addition to this Antoin's younger brother Anthony received extended punishment for no reason as his grades were passing and should have been eligible immediately.

I want you to ask yourself- Why would our high school AD do this?

I can assure you he does not have the student athletes' best interest in mind which was also evident when Coach Gruber requested grades for his players to nominate them for Academic All State awards. While Don did respond to an email for the WIAA Scholar award which his players did not qualify for, Don plainly asked if he had any scholar athletes. Jerry Halopka could have suggested to Don that his players qualified for the WBCA award but instead Mr. Halopka stated no one qualified. This was intentional, as athletes from other sports had already received the WBCA Academic All State award and Jerry just didn't want to help the boys program in any way. This is extremely sad for those players that did qualify. What's interesting is that when this information was presented to Mr. Bazata a statement was made that Don Gruber didn't do his job but thankfully Mr. Halopka was able to get the boys their awards after the fact. This is so far from the truth and had Mr. Halopka had the student athletes best interest in mind he would have supplied the grades when Don asked for them. The athletic directors should be supporting all the programs and student athletes which Jerry does not do.

With all the information presented to you on the unjust firing of Don Gruber as well as the evidence that Jerry Halopka not only didn't do this job, but also allowed taunting from opposing fans and racism, I

would find it hard to believe that Jerry Halopka would remain as the Athletic Director.

In reference to the hiring of Tyler Enright. I would like you to evaluate his qualifications and you will see that he is extremely unqualified. Tylers playing experience consists of 2 years on varsity, both years the team had losing records of 9-15 & 10-13 and Tylers stats were far below an average player scoring 2 ppg as a junior shooting 52% from FT and 6 ppg as a senior with a FT% of 60%. How do we expect him to be instructing players on shot form and skill when he wasn't a skilled player himself?

On top of that he is nowhere near the most qualified individual who was interviewed. I personally interviewed and I have 18 years of coaching experience, 11 at the high school level and the past 7 years volunteering with the boy's basketball program, along with Chad Cook who has at least 15 years of coaching experience and the past 6 years with the Varsity program. The most qualified candidate of all was Coach Don Gruber, who reapplied for the job. I am aware that all candidates should have received a call either thanking them for applying or receiving an interview. Coach Gruber was never contacted. This was extremely unprofessional for Mr. Halopka and Mr. Bingham to do.

In response to the selection of Coach Enright. I would like you to know that he is a nice individual who is very enthusiastic but that does not make him qualified to be the Head Varsity basketball coach. His coaching experience consists of 1 year as a freshman coach and 5 years as a JV Coach. He has no experience coaching basketball at the

varsity level. In fact his mentor, which is his previous varsity coach has a record of 75-72 which is a 51% winning percentage over the past 6 seasons while Tyler was coaching under him. As well losing 5 of the 6 first round WIAA regional games. Which is by no means an impressive stat line. The 4 years Prior to coach the Schools winning percentage was 58% so a 7% decrease in winning. Coach Don Gruber on the other hand has elevated the Kewaskum program since taking it over. In fact his winning percentage over the past 5 years is 48% and he lead Kewaskum to their first winning season in over 40 years!

In addition to this their

1st back-to-back winning seasons in over 47 years

3 straight double digit winning seasons in over 55 years

Most conference wins in 3 straight seasons over 60 years

And won 4 tournament games in the past 5 years- They had only won 4 games in the previous 38 years.

There are at least 15 other historical accomplishments that I am happy to provide you with but unfortunately, I don't have the time to address them all.

When Don was fired Mr. Halopka stated they "had standards", apparently those standards don't include elevating a program, teaching life lessons, and leading a well-respected program. I know that Kewaskum School District has standards as well and I would like to know why Mr. Halopka is not held accountable for his actions.

In regards to the reinstatement of Don Gruber. Don has been coaching for 20 years, 18 at the high school level and 15 of which were at the Varsity level. He has always provided his players with the best experience he could and dedicated himself to knowing every aspect of the game. Over the years Don has been part of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association and attended numerous events to continue to learn from the top coaches in the country. In fact he has been a certified official for the past 5 years, as he knows how important it is to understand all aspects of the game.

On top of his high-level qualifications, Don has also been involved in the community and donated his time as well as financially to the youth program to provide the upcoming athletes with an outstanding learning experience. Don's financial donations to the school and high school program, and youth program were always done anonymously as he wasn't looking for the recognition, but rather that he wanted every player to be part of the program whether they could afford it or not. His heart has always been with Kewaskum which is why we are requesting coach Don Gruber be reinstated as the Boys basketball coach as he is the epitome of what a qualified and committed candidate would be. Thank you