

## Gettysburg School District 53-1

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**Amber Mikkelsen**  
Superintendent/SPED Director/  
Elementary Principal

**Barb Everson**  
Business Manager

**Wendy Smith**  
MS/HS Principal

Dear Hoven School Board and patrons,

We would like to begin by offering a formal apology from Amber Mikkelsen, Supt, and Chad Rausch, Board President, for the information that was incorrectly reported to our school board and stated in the October meeting minutes. We held a special board meeting last night and corrected this error. However, due to that communication error the proposed updates to the sports co-op agreement, delivered from the sports co-op committee, were prematurely proposed. To prevent this from happening in the future, we will be recording all meetings, that can be legally recorded, so all things can be clearly and correctly communicated.

We appreciate your willingness to meet as a committee in September, and we would like to be completely clear with you on what we are asking of the Hoven school district in regards to consolidation. We would like to begin exploring the idea of consolidation between our two school districts by the end of the 2024-2025 school year. It would be imperative to keep all exploration efforts open and transparent to all community members, so they can be involved in the process as well. Please keep in mind that making the commitment to explore consolidation and making a commitment to a consolidation agreement are not the same thing. We would like both districts to share the cost of hiring a professional to lead the process. Both districts would agree to bring all ideas to the table, to see if we can create a workable solution to keep both schools open and provide the students of both districts with the best educational opportunities, and the least amount of strain on our taxpayers.

If the Hoven School District would make this consolidation exploration commitment with us by our regularly scheduled January 2025 board meeting, the athletic co-op agreement, as it currently stands, will be unchanged. However, if you are unwilling to make this exploration commitment or have absolutely no interest in a consolidation with the Gettysburg School District, then the new coop agreement that was presented at the special coop meeting is our offer.

We welcome any questions to ensure clarity on our intentions regarding consolidation, and our invitation stands to have a joint board meeting for discussion.

Sincerely,  
The Gettysburg School District Board of Education

*Chad Rausch, Supt. 12-11-24*