

ASAA meeting April 4th, 2022

My name is Paul Salima I'm the Athletic Director at Grace Christian School for the past 6 years. I've been a parent at Grace for the past 17 years. I'm here to speak on the agenda item of the Co-Op Agreement between Grace Christian and the Anchorage School District.

I know this was up for a vote at the last board meeting and resulted in a 4-4 tie.

Thank you for your vote and to the Regions that voted to approve this co-op agreement.

ASAA's Mission Statement states:

Strengthen student wellness, and academic and social development by advocating **equitable** participation and fostering healthy competition for ALL (all caps for emphasis) Alaska students. #winforlife

ASAA's Vision:

To ensure ALL (all is capitalized for emphasis) students have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities to develop positive life skills #winforlife

1) The board of directors I believe approved a co-op unanimously for Lumen Christi in February 2020. I know it was different make up of the people serving on the board but I would venture to guess those that are representing their Regions now were still part of their Regions during this time and would have been aware of this co-op agreement between Lumen and ASD.

I've heard nothing negative, in fact, I've heard a lot of positives about the Lumen Christi agreement. Allowing some students to play a sport that Lumen will never offer at their school. This is the exact same thing we are putting forth in this board. We are not asking for anything different or to make an exception to any established bylaws in the ASAA handbook.

My goal as an athletic director is to provide Grace students with every opportunity I can for them to participate in co-curricular activities.

When we were able to form a team sport I have done so. I started baseball 5 years ago

I started a Clay Target Shooting team 4 years ago and we had a couple of students earn scholarships with one getting a full-ride scholarship for shooting and also traveling with the Jr. Olympic team. He will probably be in the Olympics

Community Opportunity

1. I've hosted Region 1 2A Great Alaska Regional Tournament. In March
2. Alaska Native Olympics Anchorage tryouts March
3. I've hosted the All-Star Senior Basketball game a couple of weeks ago.

All these events at no charge to be able to provide these schools and our community opportunities to play and foster healthy competition

So I guess I'm bewildered by why our proposal was rejected

1. I don't know What is the difference between these co-ops? It's essentially The same agreement.
2. I'm not sure how many co-ops has ASAA Board has NOT approved?
3. I know there are exceptions that have been granted to approve other co-ops that might be contrary to what's stated in the bylaws?

I know Lathrop and West Valley this past year coop for Hockey. Lathrop has an enrollment of 900+ students and West Valley of 800+ students. That is great! Continue to give these kids the opportunity to play the sports they need!

Grace has between 160 and 170 High school students every year.

- Grace has had a co-op with South HS for hockey in the past.
- Grace has had a coop with ACS for baseball last season.

I've asked others about their concerns and reached out to some who have voiced their opposition to Grace Christians co-op.

1. And one of the concerns that I've heard was that somehow Grace could attract athletes that would want to play basketball at Grace and play football for East. Creating an All-Star team. I can guarantee you that definitely will not happen for many reasons. One East has a solid basketball program. Second, it's cost-prohibitive to attend Grace. Thirdly, we are a private institution and have a selection process for enrollment. But if that were to be the case and somehow turns out that way then guess what, Grace will need to move up to 4A Classification for basketball.
2. I've heard the other opposition was that when kids enroll at certain schools that don't have another school to co-op within their geographical area they are limited to the sports they offer. I think that's an apples and oranges comparison as I've never heard that presented before our proposal not that it hasn't been a concern. But then that would mean that ALL Coops should be eliminated.

Again I want to state ASAA's mission of equitable participation and Vision to ensure ALL students have the opportunity to participate.

But right now there's no equality here and some of our students are not afforded the opportunity to participate in a sport they love.

If you vote to adopt this Grace and ASD Co-Op and for some reason you realize oh goodness we've created super dominant sports teams at Grace, then after a year re-evaluate the agreement like all others and make the necessary changes. But to not even give us chance and an opportunity when you've granted other schools the same opportunity is unfair.

Again if we're all about the well-being of student-athletes, then I am asking you to please reconsider and do the right thing and vote to give these students an opportunity to play a sport with a team that Grace will never have as a program, but could ultimately impact these student-athletes for a lifetime!

Thank you for your time and consideration!

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