

Editorial Writing

Invitational B Meet • 2020



You are a reporter for the Leaguetown **Press**, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. From the given information, write an **editorial** as you would for the high school newspaper. Remember that as an editorial writer, you should support or oppose **policy or action**; you should not sermonize.

You have
45 minutes.

Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or your entry. **Put your number on your paper.**

Leaguetown High School has 800 students enrolled in grades 9-12. In the fall, the school board and district administration announced that a new district focus would be on health and changed the district mission statement to reflect that. The new mission statement is "LISD promotes healthy lifestyles to create healthy, educated and engaging citizens." As a result of this new focus, the district began free after-school fitness classes for faculty and staff and brought in a dietician to work individually with staff members to create healthier diet plans. In the spring, the goal was to shift the focus to students. In February, the district launched a healthy food line in the cafeteria. All lunches from this line are less than 500 calories. In addition to an emphasis on healthy eating, the district also started an after-school walking program for students. Coach Randy Steager organizes the two-mile walks each day.

Last week, the junior class sponsor turned in her paperwork for the junior class bake sale. It is the junior's biggest fundraiser for prom. For the April bake sale, juniors ask community members to bake desserts and donate them. Then, the juniors sell the desserts during lunch and after school. Last year, the class made \$2,400. Yesterday, Principal Anna Polk turned down the request. She said the bake sale primarily sells sugary items, and that is in opposition to the new district focus. Polk suggested the class sell a different item to raise money.

Upset by her decision, the junior class officers set a meeting with Superintendent Shannon Galindo for Friday, March 13, to try to override Polk's decision. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed Thursday, March 12.

THOSE SUPPORTING POLK'S DECISION

A bake sale of cupcakes, cookies and other dessert items runs contrary to the district's new mission. If the district wants students to be healthy, it cannot allow the juniors to sell hundreds of sweet items for an entire week.

THOSE OPPOSING POLK'S DECISION

It is too late in the year for the junior class to find another fundraiser. If the principal was going to ban bake sales, she should have made that announcement at the beginning of the year. The juniors already have more than 50 community members committed to baking items for the sale.

■ ANNA POLK, principal

"I am not sure why the juniors were surprised with my decision. All year long, we have focused on creating healthy students and staff from the inside out. I can't allow a bake sale. I would be a hypocrite.

"The juniors are welcome to sell other food items, like fruit or barbecue or hamburgers. Students will buy all kinds of food. We just want the food to be

■ ANNA POLK, cont.

healthier than a sugar cookie or chocolate cupcake. Those are empty calories and only add to our students' sugar addictions."

■ CECELIA EIKENBUSH, math teacher and junior class sponsor

"I wish Ms. Polk would have said something to me about the bake sale before now. The junior class has done a bake sale for the past 10 years. It's our biggest fundraiser for prom. Last year, the bake sale raised enough money to pay for the deejay. Our juniors have spent months getting commitments from community members on baking donations. Plus, this fundraiser is a great community builder. We don't have time to come up with a different fundraiser. We have less than a month before the April 6 bake sale. That's not enough time. I worry about what we will be able to do for prom now."

■ DEBRA LINUS, junior and class president

"Not approving our bake sale is ridiculous. I get that the school wants students to be healthier, but the bake sale is one week. One week. It's not going to kill anyone to have a few sweets for one week. And if Ms. Polk didn't want us to have the bake sale, why wouldn't she tell us earlier in the year? This is a junior class tradition. The women's group at my church has been planning what cookies it was going to donate for the last month. The group loves baking for the students. I don't know what we are going to do if we can't change the superintendent's mind. Creating a good fundraiser takes time, and we don't have that."

■ TAMMI FONG, sophomore

"My sister told me about the bake sale being cancelled. It's a bummer, but I am not totally upset. I like that the school wants us to be healthier. I started walking with Coach Steager's group and eating from the healthy lunch line. I've already lost seven pounds. I know I could easily gain that back in a week if the juniors had the bake sale. Those desserts are too good to resist."

■ MARGARET HUNT, community member and retired librarian

"I've baked my snickerdoodle cookies for the junior bake sale for the past 10 years, and they sell out every year. I love donating the cookies. For a few years after I retired, I was able to volunteer at the school, but as I've aged, it's become much tougher. Baking the cookies makes me feel like I am still a part of the school. I would hate to have to stop. Maybe I could figure out a way to make the cookies healthier."

■ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Superintendent Shannon Galindo declined to comment until after she meets with the junior class officers.