

January 19, 2010

David Bayes
Athletic Director
Boyd County High School
12307 Midland Trail Road
Ashland, KY 41102

Dear Mr. Bayes,

As officers of the Boyd County Lady Lions Softball Boosters, we would like to request a meeting with the Gender Equity Committee of Boyd County High School.

The boosters have been very busy improving the softball facilities. The field has been sloped and re-seeded and the new grass is coming up thick and green. The dozer work was donated and because of the excavation, approximately \$5,000 worth of top soil is available for district use. The fence has been moved and drain tile installed around the infield.

Because the field has no sprinkler system, volunteers came to the field two to three times a day to move water hose and portable sprinklers during the driest part of the summer. This has all been done with no cost, other than water, to the school or school board.

We appreciate the board constructing the press box last year and the high school purchasing brick chips for the infield. We are also thankful for the movable bleachers that were purchased by the Board and constructed by our boosters; however, we have some major concerns that must be addressed:

1. We need new dug outs with dressing/restroom facilities. Ours are in very poor condition. The wood is rotting under the roof and our players have no where to change clothes. The only ladies restroom, that has one commode, must be used by spectators and players alike. It is very difficult for our girls and visiting players to get dressed before games or practices. The dugouts are below ground level so water is a problem. Every time it rains the girls must deal with water puddles and mud. Mold is a constant problem.
2. The road to the softball field needs paved. During the spring it goes from mud to dust and back to mud. There is very little parking available and if we have wet conditions you need a four wheel drive vehicle to get out of some of the places spectators are forced to park. The football practice field is sometimes used, but a few times in the past, it has been roped off. Again in wet weather, cars get stuck and ruts make the field hazardous for football players in the fall. We have been told the County Road Department may be willing to help with the cost of paving since they have a sewer man hole on the property. (Note: When the pumping station fails, we have raw sewer that spews out of the man hole.)

According to previous coach, Ray Robbins, the softball field was built when the Optimist's field at Cooper Elementary had to be closed. Mr. Robbins said the fence was donated by Armco Steel. The building material for the dugouts and concession stand and the gravel for the parking lot were purchased by the Optimist Club and with individual donations. He said he even installed the water lines himself. The only things paid with school funds were two block layers and eventually lights. Since very little money has been spent by the school system on this facility, we feel our requests are reasonable.

We have been assured that we will be getting a new field as soon as soon as the new high school is built. According to one school board member, this is probably at least five or six years down the road "if" funds are available. If we have to wait that many years, we must keep the facilities we have in the best condition possible. This cannot be done without financial help. Any money spent will not be wasted. Upon completion of the new complex, the old field can be utilized for JV

practices that now must be scheduled after the varsity has finished. Also, the Optimist's field will not have to be used for tournaments that require two locations.

As you know, there is no way to compare the baseball field and the softball field. Boyd County Baseball has one of the finest facilities in the state. It is definitely a source of pride for our young men. We are one of the few schools in the region that does not have a new softball complex. Our young women and their coaches work very hard to maintain a "winning" program. We are proud of their accomplishments, both on the field and in the classroom. They deserve the best facilities available. Please help us make that possible.

Please schedule a meeting as soon as possible so we may address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Don Ingles, Co-President

Janet Ingles, Co-President

Melissa Coburn, Vice-President

Teresa Brown, Secretary

Donna Stewart, Treasurer
Boyd County Lady Lions Softball Boosters

xc: Rhonda Salisbury, Principal
Howard Osborne, Superintendent