

**From:** 7(1)(c): Personal Privacy 7(1)(b): Private information  
**Sent:** Wed, 25 Aug 2021 15:04:53 -0500  
**To:** boe@hinsdale86.org;wwalsh@hinsdale86.org;djones@hinsdale86.org;Superintendent Tammy Prentiss;sphillip@hinsdale86.org  
**Subject:** Cancellation of long standing traditions....

To the leadership of Hinsdale Central High School,

I am a Hinsdale resident with 7(1)(c): Personal currently in the senior class of HCHS. I am writing this email to all of you in the hope of getting some answers on a few 7(1)(c): Personal that I have heard recently. These are regarding the elimination of several student experiences with long standing traditions at Hinsdale Central High School.

First. The elimination of homecoming court this year. On what basis was this cancelled? Who was the committee that has decided on this? What feedback did you garner from the community, student council, or the executive board. From what I have heard, there was none and this decision was made solely by one or two people, including the activities director. In speaking to my 7(1)(c): Personal, they shared with me that over the past couple of years the kids who were selected were those who are kind to others, did great in school, and even students with special needs. *In addition, I spoke to the Hinsdale South Activities Director today, Nick, and he confirmed that South was indeed having a homecoming court this year. He also mentioned to me that they had one last spring to make up for the one that was missed in the fall. Well done Nick! I am curious as to why the inequity between the two schools if it such an important initiative.*

Second. The elimination of cheerleading captains. From what I understand this was seen as "popularity contest" and "not fair". However, I have seen on Instagram on the RDN a photo of the 5 football captains. I also know that the girls swim/dive team have them. If we are looking at fairness and diversity, how does this equate? Possibly instead of eliminating the captains, the process could have been adjusted. Captains have to have a certain GPA, need to be involved in other school programs, need to be nominated by a teacher or coach? Neither of 7(1)(c): Personal are cheerleaders, but I feel for the kids that were looking forward to the opportunity. *In my opinion, all sports should have captains, most of the time these roles have been earned due to performance and leadership. Why is a small group deciding on taking away leadership opportunities for our kids. Before any of additional opportunities are taken away in other sports this year, who is going to step in?*

Third. The elimination of several leadership clubs. One of the wonderful things about Hinsdale Central was the opportunity to join and become involved in many leadership roles. This is great experience prior to going to college that can benefit anyone. 7(1)(c): Personal was accepted last year as a Red Devil Leader, something that she was proud of and was excited to be a part of. She was extremely disappointed when many of the leadership clubs were eliminated and combined into one. It cuts down on kids opportunities to hold positions in these clubs, as well as the number of kids that can be involved. **Again, is there the opportunity to reinstate? Why did this occur?**

I think you would all agree that we have all had a tough 18 months. It's been especially tough on our students. They have learned resilience, a new way to interact, and most have risen to the challenge. Finally, we have the ability to provide somewhat of a normal year to them and more and more decisions are being made in a vacuum, with no transparency to any of them. Who is accountable for pushing this agenda? Who is going to be accountable to our students to ensure that we do not continue to cancel activities, leadership roles, opportunities, etc.

Thank you for your time and attention to this, I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Regards,  
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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** 7(1)(c): Personal 7(1)(b): Private information  
**Sent:** Thu, 26 Aug 2021 17:03:52 +0000  
**To:** boe@hinsdale86.org;wwalsh@d86.org;tprentiss@d86.org  
**Subject:** Changes to Hinsdale Central Activities and Traditions

I am writing this email because I am concerned about the elimination of activities, clubs, and leadership roles at Hinsdale Central High School.

"At established schools with an enduring history, the celebration of traditions provides students with the experience of connectivity that comes with coming together as a group."

Last school year, I had a 2021 graduate. It was very disappointing that many activities and traditions were canceled due to Covid. Hinsdale South made the most of the situation by moving Mr. Hinsdale South, Powder Puff, and Homecoming Week activities to the spring. Hinsdale Central did not have any of these activities. I am unsure why one school was able to make the end of the 2021 school year festive and fun, while the other did not. I do not want the Class of 2022, the student body, and future Red Devils to miss out on so many exciting traditions and activities that my middle son did not have and my oldest son fondly remembers.

I was recently informed by a group of parents that there will no longer be a Homecoming Court. Many students have not heard about this decision. Those that do know, do not know how this decision was made, and no explanation has been provided. Were **current** students included in the decision-making process? Hinsdale South will be having a Homecoming Court. Why will Hinsdale South continue this tradition and Hinsdale Central will not? Homecoming Week is a tradition that dates back many years and serves as an avenue for creating lasting friendships and memories.

It is also my understanding that there will not be cheerleading captains this year. What message is this sending to the students that are cheerleaders? That they are unable to be leaders? 7(1)(c): was a captain last year. It was an honor and a very rewarding experience. One that 7(1)(c): won't forget. It is unfortunate that this was taken away from this group of students. Being a sports team captain is a wonderful opportunity to develop leadership traits to succeed in the future. Hinsdale Central is an extremely large school. When clubs, such as Red Devil Leaders, are eliminated or combined with an already established club, it reduces the number of students that can participate. Student involvement in activities helps students increase their interpersonal skills and build self-confidence. Our schools should be committed to maximizing student involvement.

While what I am writing about may seem trivial, I am certain that it is not trivial to the many students that are affected by these changes. Our students need a return to some normalcy after a very challenging year and a half. They deserve to have activities and traditions that they enjoyed in the past and will remember for a lifetime.

Thank you for your time.

7(1)(c):  
Personal

**From:** [Redacted] 7(1)(c): [Redacted] 7(1)(b): Private information  
Personal  
[Redacted]  
Thu, 26 Aug 2021 22:39:15 +0000  
**To:** wwalsh@hinsdale86.org  
**Cc:** sphillip@hinsdale86.org;twalker@hinsdale86.org  
**Subject:** Concerned Parent  
**Attachments:** HOCO 7(1)(c): [Redacted] Court.docx  
Personal

Please read my attached letter regarding the Senior Homecoming Court topic.  
Thanks for your time.

7(1)(c): [Redacted]  
Personal  
[Redacted]

To the BOE and all of the leaders at Hinsdale High School,

My name is <sup>7(1)</sup><sub>(c):</sub> [REDACTED] Recent discussions regarding ending the long tradition of Senior Homecoming Court at Hinsdale Central High School have me concerned. I have two children who have graduated from HCHS and a current senior, <sup>7(1)(c): Personal</sup><sub>Privacy</sub> [REDACTED]

The class of 2022 has as we all know has endured a lot and missed out on a lot. Senior Homecoming Court is a memory in the making of their lives. This is one of the greatest groups of kids I have ever met. They have handled adversity like no other I have ever seen & I think teachers would attest to this.

They were resilient, adapted to incredible change, and did what need to be done for the betterment of their school, Hinsdale Central. They missed cheering friends on, and being cheered on. They missed in person learning with teachers and staff. They missed pep rallies and parades. They missed having lunch with friends, driving to school and all of the fun & memories that go on & we laugh about for the rest of our lives.

This amazing class has found a window where things can revert back to some sense of normalcy and they can be happy and have fun. Our seniors are excited to celebrate their peers in this class who have exemplified whatever they feel makes certain people stand out. This senior class has turned out winners. Lots of them – in many different arenas – music, theater, sports, clubs, government, the list goes on and on. Celebrating the senior class is a rite of passage. It set's examples for the rest of the school as to getting involved, being kind, helping out, being a leader - traits we hope future generation red devils.

This senior class deserves this long standing tradition to continue just has it has for the past hundreds of years. It's the right thing to do for our seniors, our students. They have earned it.

We as a school should be proud of them and give them the moment to shine if they chose to participate in this event. They are eager to help make it even better than it's been in the past

Let's not stymie their enthusiasm or squash their school spirit. They supported the staff and all of the many restrictions. These kids deserve to have future memories of their Senior Year Homecoming with a Senior Year Court & a Homecoming King and Queen. The time is now to do the right thing.

Thanks for your time,

<sup>7(1)(c):</sup>  
Personal  
Privacy [REDACTED]

**From:** 7(1)(c): Personal Privacy 7(1)(b): Private information  
**Sent:** Thu, 26 Aug 2021 15:54:14 -0500  
**To:** Sally Phillip  
**Cc:** Board of Education;Walsh,William;Jones,Daniel;Superintendent Tammy Prentiss  
**Subject:** RE: Cancellation of long standing traditions....

Thank you Sally, I am very happy to hear that you met with a group of students today and will be reaching out to the larger group of seniors for their input. As I mentioned earlier, as these kids become older and more independent, they need to be given the opportunity to use their voices and state their opinions. The kids you spoke with today have earned their right to have a seat at the table. And as adults, and leaders, we need to be able to listen to them and respect them and respectfully guide them, if we disagree. It's their school, their experience, their senior year...they have worked hard to this point, they should have a say in both the old and new traditions set forth. I truly feel that there is a happy compromise to have a homecoming court, as well as include others through different activities. Hinsdale South has figured out a way to do it, possibly we can emulate. It may take creativity, patience and work...but I think it will be well worth it in the end.

Thank you,  
7(1)(c): Personal Privacy

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** [Sally Phillip](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** 7(1)(c): Personal  
**Cc:** [B Education](#); [Walsh,William](#); [Jones,Daniel](#); [Superintendent Tammy Prentiss](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Cancellation of long standing traditions....

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To clarify one thing for sure, we are not eliminating anything from Homecoming. We have not released any of the information of an updated process to our court yet as we have not been in school until today. The updated plan is being worked on still with the intention of including more of the student body, not just the senior class, with the full purpose of celebrating all of our students and promoting school spirit and an inclusive, positive culture. I met with a group of students today and have a meeting tomorrow as well to work on plans and am sending a survey to the senior class early next week for feedback before any final plans are sent to the student body. The results of conversations and the survey of seniors will be reviewed with Varsity Club so that they can plan a Homecoming that honors student voice and opinions with my support and assistance.

The poll that you mentioned, I am unaware of and have not seen in any capacity - the questions or the results nor do I know who created it. The students I met with today were unable to tell me who created it as well.

Please be patient with this process as the intention is to provide students with an inclusive experience and immerse them in the spirit and culture of Hinsdale Central High School.

*Sally Phillip*

Director of Student Activities  
Assistant Special Education Department Chair  
Illinois Director of Student Activities President Elect  
Hinsdale Central High School  
55<sup>th</sup> and Grant Street  
Hinsdale, IL 60521  
630.570.8580  
Follow HC Activities on Twitter [@HCHSActivities](#)  
And Instagram [thisishchs](#)

On Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 8:35 AM 7(1)(c): Personal 7(1)(b): Private information > wrote:

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In addition, neither of 7(1)(c): Personal had a voice in the decision. I had heard that a poll was sent out to some kids and that it came back 100% of kids against changes.

From what I understand, you are completely eliminating the court and opening up the skits to anyone, opposed to those that the court selects. Why not a compromise? Still have the court which is a long standing tradition, in addition to opening up the skits to all? There is still time to reinstate. There is still time to send out a larger poll to the student body. Let them decide.

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7(1)(c):  
(c):

7(1)(c):  
Personal  
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Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 25, 2021, at 4:06 PM, Sally Phillip <[sphillip@hinsdale86.org](mailto:sphillip@hinsdale86.org)> wrote:

All -

I can address points 1 and 3 as they pertain to Student Activities at Hinsdale Central.

In 2019 a group of students approached me with the idea of changing Homecoming Court in order to involve more of the school and diversify the students who are a part of the event. These students were part of Varsity Club and Student Council and have since graduated. Based on discussions that started in the 2019-2020 school year, we continued those conversations with the Varsity Club and Student Council throughout last year and this summer to make some changes. We are not cancelling Homecoming Court, we are updating how we do Homecoming Court moving forward - we are working to make Homecoming a more inclusive event for all students and not just about seniors. We are still in the process of working out the final details and will share all the correct details to students once we are back to school and have the plan solidified. It is a great plan that is fun and inclusive and will honor Hinsdale Central traditions in a new light.

We are not cancelling anything though - We are planning on both pep rallies - Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, a version of a Homecoming court, a football game Oct 1 and a parade and dance on Oct. 2. Again, some of those events might look a little different so that we can maintain safety of students and COVID regulations as they pertain to our school district, IDPH, DuPage County Health Department and CDC.

In regards to the elimination of leadership clubs, this is something that occurs every year where clubs are either combined, closed or reformatted. The sponsors and I meet throughout the year to evaluate what is working and what isn't and clubs are only eliminated if there is a similar opportunity available for these students, such as the case with closing Red Devil Leaders and combining with Peer Mentors. Peer Mentors was reformatted this year to better support our new students with a curriculum and training. I am proud of the work the sponsors and students have done over the summer to be ready for the new students tomorrow. I want to assure you that the focus of student activities is providing opportunities for all students based on their interests and wants – the list of clubs is a fluid list and changes from year to year based on student interest.

I do agree with you that this has been a very tough 18 months and I am so excited to have a somewhat normal year this year with students in the building. I am even more excited to work with all of our clubs to make them more accessible and inclusive to all of our students moving forward and to bring the suggestions of students based on their recent experiences to life.

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On Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 2:57 <sup>7(1)(c): Personal</sup> <sup>7(1)(b): Private information</sup> <sup>7(1)(c):</sup> wrote:

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I think you would all agree that we have all had a tough 18 months. It's been especially tough on our students. They have learned resilience, a new way to interact, and most have risen to the challenge. Finally, we have the


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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



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**To:** Sally Phillip  
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**Subject:** Re: Cancellation of long standing traditions....

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**Sent:** Thu, 26 Aug 2021 15:25:23 -0500  
**To:** 7(1)(c): Personal Privacy  
**Cc:** Board of Education; Walsh, William; Jones, Daniel; Superintendent Tammy Prentiss  
**Subject:** Re: Cancellation of long standing traditions....

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7(1)(c):  
Personal

7(1)(c): Invasion of  
personal privacy  
630.880.8720

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In regards to the elimination of leadership clubs, this is something that occurs every year where clubs are either combined, closed or reformatted. The sponsors and I meet throughout the year to evaluate what is working and what isn't and clubs are only eliminated if there is a similar opportunity available for these students, such as the case with closing Red Devil Leaders and combining with Peer Mentors. Peer Mentors was reformatted this year to better support our new students with a curriculum and training. I am proud of the work the sponsors and students have done over the summer to be ready for the new students tomorrow. I want to assure you that the focus of student activities is providing opportunities for all students based on their interests and wants – the list of clubs is a fluid list and changes from year to year based on student interest.

I do agree with you that this has been a very tough 18 months and I am so excited to have a somewhat normal year this year with students in the building. I am even more excited to work with all of our clubs to make them more accessible and inclusive to all of our students moving forward and to bring the suggestions of students based on their recent experiences to life.

*Sally Phillip*

Director of Student Activities

Assistant Special Education Department Chair

Illinois Director of Student Activities President Elect

Hinsdale Central High School

55<sup>th</sup> and Grant Street

Hinsdale, IL 60521

630.570.8580

Follow HC Activities on Twitter [@HCHSActivities](#)

And Instagram [thisishchs](#)

On Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 2:57 PM 7(1)(c): Personal 7(1)(c): wrote:

To the leadership of Hinsdale Central High School,

I am a Hinsdale resident with 7(1)(c): Personal Privacy currently in the senior class of HCHS. I am writing this email to all of you in the hope of getting some answers on a few things that I have heard recently. These are regarding the elimination of several student experiences with long standing traditions at Hinsdale Central High School.

First. The elimination of homecoming court this year. On what basis was this cancelled? Who was the committee that has decided on this? What feedback did you garner from the community, student council, or the executive board. From what I have heard, there was none and this decision was made solely by one or two people, including the activities director. In speaking to 7(1)(c): Personal, they shared with me that over the past couple of years the kids who were selected were those who are kind to others, did great in school, and even students with special needs. ***In addition, I spoke to the Hinsdale South Activities Director today, Nick, and he confirmed that South was indeed having a homecoming court this year. He also mentioned to me that they had one last spring to make up for the one that was missed in the fall. Well done Nick! I am curious as to why the inequity between the two schools if it such an important initiative.***

Second. The elimination of cheerleading captains. From what I understand this was seen as “popularity contest” and “not fair”. However, I have seen on Instagram on the RDN a photo of the 5 football captains. I also know that the girls swim/dive team have them. If we are looking at fairness and diversity, how does this equate? Possibly instead of eliminating the captains, the process could have been adjusted. Captains have to have a certain GPA, need to be involved in other school programs, need to be nominated by a teacher or coach? Neither of 7(1)(c): Personal are cheerleaders, but I feel for the kids that were looking forward to the opportunity. ***In my opinion, all sports should have captains, most of the time these roles***

*have been earned due to performance and leadership. Why is a small group deciding on taking away leadership opportunities for our kids. Before any of additional opportunities are taken away in other sports this year, who is going to step in?*

Third. The elimination of several leadership clubs. One of the wonderful things about Hinsdale Central was the opportunity to join and become involved in many leadership roles. This is great experience prior to going to college that can benefit anyone. <sup>7(1)(c): Personal Privacy</sup> was accepted last year as a Red Devil Leader, something that she was proud of and was excited to be a part of. She was extremely disappointed when many of the leadership clubs were eliminated and combined into one. It cuts down on kids opportunities to hold positions in these clubs, as well as the number of kids that can be involved. **Again, is there the opportunity to reinstate? Why did this occur?**

I think you would all agree that we have all had a tough 18 months. It's been especially tough on our students. They have learned resilience, a new way to interact, and most have risen to the challenge. Finally, we have the ability to provide somewhat of a normal year to them and more and more decisions are being made in a vacuum, with no transparency to any of them. Who is accountable for pushing this agenda? Who is going to be accountable to our students to ensure that we do not continue to cancel activities, leadership roles, opportunities, etc.

Thank you for your time and attention to this, I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Regards,

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** Sally Phillip <sPhillip@hinsdale86.org>  
**Sent:** Wed, 25 Aug 2021 16:06:30 -0500  
**To:** 7(1)(c): [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Personal [REDACTED]  
b [REDACTED] nsdale86.org;wwalsh@hinsdale86.org;djones@hinsdale86.org;Superintendent Tammy Prentiss  
**Subject:** Re: Cancellation of long standing traditions....

All -

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