

# BUCKS BULLETIN

## SIGN THE PETITION TO PROTECT GIRLS' SPORTS & LOCKER ROOMS

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### **CBSD CONSIDERS SEX-BASED SPORTS POLICY, CRUCIAL TO PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF GIRLS' SPORTS**

The Central Bucks School Board is considering Policy 123.3, which would separate athletics based on biological sex in the district. The policy, which would be the first of its kind in Bucks, would maintain clear distinctions in sports between male and female athletes.

As it currently stands, PIAA leaves the determination of whether a student athlete is a girl or boy up to the athlete's principal, a recipe for inconsistent decisions. A lack of universal guidance on this issue leaves open the possibility for placing district administrators in a contentious and difficult position, as was the case in Western PA this spring, when a transgender athlete qualified to compete in the girls' track and field state competition, edging out a biological female who would have otherwise qualified. Every district needs a clear policy to handle situations like these, and CBSD's promises to be the first in our area.

Retired CBSD English teacher Katherine Semisch, founder of 501(c)3 "Advocates for Inclusive Education," argued against dividing sports by biological sex, stating, "we're setting our girls up for a nightmare if we ban trans girls from team sports." She further implied that this policy will lead to the schools requiring testosterone tests or for female athletes to "show their bodies," to be allowed to compete. The proposed policy, however, does not allow for drug testing, nor does it require any sort of physical inspection by any school employee. Rather, the policy outlines providing an original birth certificate should there be any question regarding the biological sex of an athlete.

Semisch's disapproval was echoed by Director Mariam Mahmud (D), who is a pediatrician. Mahmud voiced her disfavor of any policy to protect girls' sports at the November 15, 2022 policy meeting, where Dr. Greg Brown, Ph. D., presented information on the physiological differences between males and females.

Mahmud reiterated at last week's policy meeting that she is not in favor of this policy, and stated that the board majority had not found an expert who agreed with her position to present on this topic. When asked specifically about a statistic she cited at the November policy meeting, related to transgender athletes and suicidality decreasing due to participation in sports, Mahmud refused to respond, stating "I'm not going to be pulled into this." This was a departure from prior commentary, when Mahmud pointed to her involvement in mental health organizations and stated she had "really solid data that (she would) share with everybody."

In order to pass, Policy 123.3 will need to be discussed in two more public meetings, and then the majority of the board must vote in favor. It's important that the community shows strong support for this policy, especially as Democrat political groups seek to involve national organizations, like the ACLU.

If you support a policy to protect girls' sports in Central Bucks, and in other Bucks County school districts, please show your support by signing our petition, above.

**PAID FOR BY PROTECT BUCKS PAC**