

BUCKS BULLETIN

CBSD MOVES TO PROTECT FAIR COMPETITION IN GIRLS' ATHLETICS - KAREN SMITH DISAGREES

In a significant step forward in the fight to preserve fair competition in girls' athletics, Central Bucks School District (CBSD) voted to advance Policy 123.3 this week. This policy emphasizes the importance of sex-based distinctions in athletics, safeguarding the integrity of female sports. A similar policy also successfully passed the first read in Pennridge School District. This indicates a growing recognition of the need to address sex-based differences in high school athletics. Pennridge is on track to finalize this policy at an upcoming meeting this month.

However, there was a notable absence during this critical vote in CBSD: Director Karen Smith, who ran as a Republican in 2019, became known for her votes in favor of strict COVID mitigation, and is now running for Region 1 Director as a Democrat this fall.



Smith's chair sat empty at the October 10th meeting

Smith left a written comment for Director Mariam Mahmud (D) to read. Her comment urged caution, suggesting that the policy shouldn't be rushed. This is not the first time that sex-based differences in athletics have come up in CBSD, however. These discussions began in November 2022, and most recently, at the district's latest policy meeting, where Smith was also notably absent.


In response to her absence and to clarify her position, we reached out to Karen Smith via her campaign Facebook. She stated that she would have voted "against" the policy.


Policy 123.3's advancement in CBSD is a key development in the ongoing fight to protect the integrity of girls' sports. This policy acknowledges the biological differences between males and females and seeks to ensure a level playing field for female athletes, while filling the gap in guidance left by PIAA. The absence of Smith during these discussions and her expressed intention to vote against the policy raises important questions about the future of girls' athletics in CBSD. Smith's stance on this issue will have a significant impact on female athletes in the district should she be re-elected.

EARLY VOTING HAS BEGUN IN BUCKS

Mail in ballots have started to hit mailboxes this week, and votes are rolling in. A few key considerations to remember:

- Mail in ballots can be requested until October 31st. This is a great option if there's any chance you won't make it to the polls on November 7th.
- Mail in ballots can be mailed, or dropped in a ballot box. Box locations and hours are listed at:
<https://buckscounty.gov/1417/Drop-Box-Locations>
- Did you know you can vote early in person via an "on demand" ballot? Registered voters can request an on demand ballot during regular office hours at the Board of Elections office in Doylestown, and at the two satellite offices in Quakertown and Levittown.

 Doylestown Office Hours - Monday to Friday - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

 Quakertown and Levittown Government Service Center Office Hours - Monday to Friday - 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

- In Pennsylvania, all mail in and absentee ballots can be tracked, from the moment they're requested, to when they're mailed, to when your vote is counted.

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/ballotracking.aspx>

With so many ways to vote, there's no excuse to skip this election!