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Dear GMU/UV School Communities,

Thank you to those who provided feedback to our Athletic Merger Task Force through the posted Google survey. It is very helpful for us to gain knowledge of student, parent, staff and community thoughts and ideas. We would like to respond to some of the common themes that were shared by those who responded.

Coaches for Merged Programs

The recommendation of the Task Force and the desire of each district continues to be that each merged team have a coach from each district. It has become increasingly difficult to find individuals who are willing to coach. It is a huge time commitment and it is important that the individual have knowledge and understanding of the sport they wish to coach. The state also has developed many requirements for an individual to qualify as a coach, including multiple courses. Both districts are appreciative of those who have coached for us, and we encourage individuals who are interested in coaching to contact our district offices to learn about the specific requirements and to begin the process of becoming a coach.

Participation Numbers

During the Winter Sports Season, it was very difficult for both districts to get participation numbers set in a timely manner to make a decision on the need to merge or not. Initially, both districts looked at the possibility of merging their boys and girls basketball teams. After final signups, however, it no longer made sense as the large size of some teams would have reduced playing time for students or resulted in increased player cuts. Our goal is to provide more opportunity for students.

Shared Procedures

One of the reasons we put this Task Force together was to establish more consistent procedures when/if we have our students playing together on a merged team. We are hoping for shared practice and game schedules that equally utilize each district's equipment, gyms, and fields, when applicable. We are also hoping to develop a team-

building curriculum to be utilized by each coach at the beginning of each season to ensure that all athletes feel part of the merged team.

You can find the Task Force meeting notes on the GMU and UV websites. Thank you again for any and all feedback you have or will continue to provide.

Sincerely,

The Athletic Merger Task Force:

Gray Stevens, Taskforce Moderator, retired Superintendent

Brenton Taylor, UV Superintendent

Stephanie Cooper, UV Director of Education

Matthew Osborne, UV Athletic Coordinator

Annette Hammond, GMU Superintendent

Heather Wilcox, GMU Principal

Greg Bonczkowski, GMU Athletic Coordinator

3/15/2022

Sincerely,

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Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School

AH/jh
BT/vld

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