



Whitewater High School

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May 18, 2023

Dear Waunakee Community School District Board of Education Members,

First, I would like to express my gratitude for your willingness to serve your community. It is a difficult job and it is because of the willingness of people like you, that Waunakee is so well respected across the state for the excellent educational and co-curricular opportunities that it offers its students. I hope that reputation continues.

My name is Brent Mansky and I am a Class of 1998 Waunakee High School graduate. I look back fondly on my experiences at WHS and the teachers, coaches, and mentors that helped shape me to who I am today. Looking back, I feel fortunate to have grown up in such a supportive community. I will always bleed purple!

I am writing this letter in support of the reinstatement of Coach Dana MacKenzie as the Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Waunakee High School. I would like to share with you my first hand experiences to allow you to get a complete understanding of the impact Coach MacKenzie has had on Waunakee Basketball and beyond.

1. **As a former Waunakee Basketball player:** I was a three year varsity basketball starter in a very marginal basketball program at WHS. In all honesty, there was not a belief that Waunakee basketball could compete at the level of success that the football and baseball programs had been experiencing. In hindsight, the hiring of Coach MacKenzie was a grand slam and his willingness to connect with the alumni to become a part of his vision of "The Kee" came at the perfect time. As a member of the WHS basketball alumni, I support Coach MacKenzie 100%.
2. **As a varsity basketball coach:** My high school basketball coaching career covered 19 years and included five years as the head coach at Westosha Central, which included a complete rebuild of the K-12 program. I know first hand the countless hours and behind the scenes work that it takes to build a competitive program. Only those who have been a part of this process truly understand this process. The work Coach MacKenzie and his staff have put in over the past 20 years to build the youth program is unmatched to any program in the state. Waunakee Basketball is highly respected throughout the state as a direct result of Coach MacKenzie's leadership. Waunakee Basketball has become the model of how to create and maintain a comprehensive basketball program.
3. **As a school administrator:** I have had the opportunity to hire head varsity basketball coaches as the principal at both Williams Bay and Whitewater High Schools. In both searches we sought out candidates who could build a complete program with the appropriate combination of education, knowledge, skills, and judgment needed to build and maintain positive and productive relationships with athletes, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, coaches, and community members. Without a shadow of a doubt, Coach MacKenzie embodies all of the qualities that every school in Wisconsin is looking for to lead a basketball program. Of this, I have no doubt.

It is my sincere hope that you listen to all stakeholders to get a complete picture of the impact Coach MacKenzie has had on Waunakee Basketball and reinstate him as the Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach to allow him and his outstanding staff to continue the outstanding work they've put in for the past 20 years. The work they have done has become the model for all programs to emulate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brent Mansky
Principal, Whitewater High School

To: Waunakee Board of Education
Randy Guttenberg
Aaron May

Re: Non-renewal of Dana Mackenzie basketball coaching contract for 2023-24 season

Dear Waunakee School District representatives,

I am writing this letter because I am extremely disappointed in your decision not to renew Dana Mackenzie's coaching contract. My son, Jacob Soper, came up through Dana's basketball program and was a member of the very first Waunakee basketball team to play in the Wisconsin State Boys Basketball Division II tournament in 2011. Jacob thoroughly enjoyed his journey, and so did we. He is still in contact with Dana and his coaching staff today. I can speak to our experience from 4th through 12th grade, but realize it was many years ago. The experience was awesome, and I will remember it always. I had 2 sons who participated in 5 different sports (football, basketball, baseball, track and cross country). Did coaches rant and rave and yell at them at times? Absolutely – in all but cross country. Do I condone it? No, but I also recognize things happen in the heat of the moment. We are human after all.

I learned of the campaign to fire Dana last fall, prior to the start of the 2022-23 season. My son informed me and wrote an email to Randy Guttenberg in support of Dana and his team. I normally attend many of the home boys varsity basketball games but because of the effort to fire Dana prior to the season, I watched him more closely. I did not see anything but respectful, appropriate and pretty calm behavior during the games, even if Waunakee lost. Having been to the games, I know who has played and who hasn't. I would wager that most of the parents/kids being negative about Dana have/are players sitting on the bench. Most parents believe their child is the best, but who plays is a coaching decision. I think Dana's win/loss record shows that he knows what he is doing, and this should be respected.

I can also speak currently to the very public bashing of Dana and his program on Facebook by former BOE members Mike Brandt and David Boetcher. I find their posts full of innuendo and accusations, all made without providing any evidence. The two of them throw out misinformation, or misleading information, some of which is flat out false, and then sit back while the Facebook wolves of "Waunakee, Can We Talk", rip Dana apart. Dana and staff have remained completely silent on the matter, and I don't know how they do it. I commend them for it.

Once it was widely known that Dana was not renewed, the public outcry was deafening. Former and current basketball coaches, referees, players and parents came out in support of Dana. I have attached some of their comments below. Please read them. I also wish you would reconsider hiring Dana Mackenzie as head boys basketball coach for the 2023-24 season and beyond. Who would fire an extremely successful head coach, who has built a successful basketball program, just as his sons get to varsity level? That is a terrible thing to do, quite mean, and very devastating to the family. There is a comment below from an adult whose dad was head coach at Lodi and was not renewed for his senior year. He said it devastated him and has affected him for his entire life. Please think also about Dana's two sons, who are students of Waunakee, and how this affects them as well, possibly for life!

Also, interesting that the recommendation not to renew came from two administrators leaving the district, who will not have to deal with the fallout from this decision.

Regretfully,

Jane Soper
Waunakee, WI

Comments from social media:

Steve Royko

None of these things happen in a vacuum and it is disingenuous or naive to suggest otherwise. It is a fact that this is a highly successful coach. Liked and respected by most, but not all. This is true of anyone in that kind of job after 20 years. It is also known that there are the typical parents disgruntled with their children's playing time and likely some who represent today's over-sensitivity to any kind of criticism of their child.

Of course, there is also the possibility some of these parents are wealthy and willing to exert their will through legal fishing expeditions. This wouldn't be the first time in this country when a person or company of means used the legal system to try to wear the other side down, regardless of whether or not they have a case. The arduousness and expense of the process can be enough to discourage the other side from fighting, even if they are on the right side.

Maybe this whole thing happens if there first weren't parents disgruntled by their children's lack of playing time, but I doubt it. Maybe there is something to this suit. But if it turns out, as I expect, that there is nothing there on the legal side, then this entire thing is just a disgraceful smear. That includes this notion of trying to burn down a man's reputation and then hiding behind anonymity for "fear of retaliation", as though he and those who support him are some kind of threat. Another smear. Have the courage of your convictions folks. Don't like a coach? Fine. Lay your points out in the public square. You are on the side of righteousness so your kids should be proud of your conduct, right?

Coach MacKenzie's record and his reputation speak for themselves. When all is said and done he should be a Hall of Fame coach. More importantly, there are so many people and families who respect and like him and will speak to his character. That should count for a lot and it does, just maybe not with this small group of people he was unfortunate enough to cross paths with.

In the end, this is a loss for Waunakee but hopefully a gain for other people, including Coach MacKenzie and his family. And if this ends up being a case of "find me the man and I'll find you the crime" then there should be accountability through all legal and democratic means possible for the people who did this and the people in leadership who went along with it. That wouldn't be "retaliation", it would be justice.

James Imhoff

Yikes! These comments are more disturbing than the unfounded accusations. I volunteered as an assistant varsity basketball coach many years ago with this group of coaches. I

can assure you there is nothing nefarious going on! At the time, they had a zero tolerance for alcohol and drug violations, which was more severe than the district's policy. They also were in regular contact with student advisors to ensure their players were handling their schoolwork. Their standards for academics and behavior were also more stringent than the district's. Bottom line is they do things the right way. They develop basketball players and young men! It is too bad a community as fortunate as Waunakee doesn't appreciate the quality of the coaches and sports programs they have. Modern day parents (obviously not all) are the problem. That's why there are less and less coaches and referees these days. Little "Johnny" isn't getting enough playing time, so it's time to start a witch hunt, rather than taking the opportunity to teach the kid about adversity and grinding. I can't even keep up with these accusations, but when I was involved, the booster funds were used for computers and software for the coaches to review film, a few pieces of clothing for the coaches/trainers/managers to wear, and other basketball program related expenses. If you break down ANY high school coach's hourly rate, you're probably in the neighborhood of \$1/hour. Waunakee is such a good school system and is so fortunate to have one of the best athletic departments in the state. Don't ruin it! Appreciate what you have! "Johnny" will be fine!

[Gregg Stephan](#)

I have been watching the Waunakee High School basketball fiasco with Coach Dana Mackenzie. Waunakee, Waunakee High School sports and the parents involved in this you should be ashamed. As a long time high school basketball official I would not be the only one to say Coach Mackenzie is not an easy night of officiating. However part of his job is working the next call, pleading his players cases and nobody does this harder than Coach Mackenzie. Does he go overboard once in awhile maybe but so does every other coach. He is an excellent coach, I have seen him outcoach many opposing coaches, make key changes at key times in games, make substitutions and time out calls at the obvious right times. I have seen him make offensive and defensive changes at the right times when things are not going well! I have seen his relationship with his kids that work hard for him, respect him and have become better men because of his mentoring! Waunakee you have lost a great person, mentor and coach and you really should be ashamed of yourself. He will move on to another program make them a winner like he did Waunakee and it will be your loss! Shame on you.

[Mitch Farrey](#)

Very disappointed in my alma mater's decision to make a coaching change in this fashion. That being said, I don't believe in giving the time and attention to the decision makers in this matter. The light needs to be shined on Coach [MacKenzie](#) and his staff. Many people focus on Wins and Losses to much in high school athletics. Don't get me wrong every coach wants to win as much if not more than the players, but there is so much more to gain from athletics than winning. Coach took over a program in 2003 that not many believed in, but he saw what it could be, believed in his vision and worked tirelessly to build and sustain a proud program over the last 20 years. Coach taught me so much about the game of basketball. He showed me how I could use my passion in ways that don't show in a box score; but more importantly he guided me off the court and continues to be a great sounding board to this day.

Would also be remiss if I didn't mention the great coaching staff of Coach [Selk](#), Coach [Knutson](#) and Coach Knatz. Behind every great Head Coach is a great group of Assistants. Thank you all for your dedication to the program and staying together for the last 20 years. You all believed in

the program from day 1. Thank you for taking time away from your families and spending all the hours in the gym, on the busses, watching film and impacting hundreds of young people men and women that have been a part of this great program you all have created over the years. The views of many will always outweigh the few. Stand tall and be proud of the enormous impact and pride you have brought to the community and this Warriors program. I look forward to seeing the next bench you all call home.

[Brock Allen Roder](#) ·

The Waunakee school district should be embarrassed that they let a group of adults decide the future of Waunakee basketball program. The amount of success that [Dana MacKenzie](#) has achieved, not only on the court but off the court, with his student athletes is something to be honored and not replaced. Dana you are a hell of a coach and person. You will, no doubt, land on your feet and I hope you prove to the Waunakee school district that you are more of an asset to the community than the checkbooks of others. Again, Waunakee school district should be embarrassed that they allowed this circus to happen. To Dana, [Tyler Selk](#), BK and Knatz- it's been a pleasure watching you guys coach and guide the young kids from the ground level up. Waunakee has been in great hands for years and developed admiration from other communities to strive for "Waunakee's Way." Nobody knows what the future holds for Waunakee hoops and these great gentlemen. Whether they choose to go separate ways or stay together I hope they know the impact they made in Waunakee, BDL, and in the Life of all the kids they coached and taught. It will never be forgotten by the people and that means the most!!! Your families, your friends and your players THANK YOU!! The next chapter is lucky to have you in it!!!!

[Ryan Steel](#)

I am so pissed about this for you, Dana!

[Peter Walton](#)

I am very disappointed to learn of this action- Dana as a friend I have always found You to be a Man of Integrity- I Wish for you a Great Future elsewhere- Pete Sr.

[Ryan Rogers](#)

I've followed the school's basketball success with your leadership for years, it's sad that people have nothing better to do....

[Magali Shaw](#)

Oh my goodness! We feel for you! Jealousy is ugly and I feel bad that it had the power to hurt a good man, his family and his players. Karma is a bitch...they will get theirs in time. God bless!! ❤️

[Jason Nevins](#)

As a non resident of Waunakee School District I can tell you they are losing a great coach and are making a huge mistake with this decision. [Dana](#), I know you'll do great things wherever your next stop takes you!

[Justin Drabowicz](#)

Disgusted by this [Dana MacKenzie](#). You're a great coach and even better man. Keep your head up. Massive loss to the Waunakee sports community and we'll feel it as a whole.

[Greg Tuescher](#)

Waunakee school district has made a big mistake in this decision by letting the influence of a couple of parents dictate the outcome of a successful program and costing a good man his job! Thank you Dana for all you have done for Waunakee basketball!!

[Jason Misfeldt](#)

Thanks for all you and your staff have done. Unprecedented.
(Other than Kimberly)
Thanks, Coach Mac

[Brett D Wheeler](#)

Dana, I'm very sorry to see this. The timing of it with your boys coming through is gut wrenching.

[Lisa Wiedenfeld-Wilson](#)

So sorry [Dana MacKenzie](#). Hunter never had you had a coach but I heard so many good things about you. All I have to say is coaching is a hard job and parents have NO IDEA. As married to a coach I totally understand what you are going through. Keep your head up it gets better.

[Jill Hughey](#)

Thank you for your dedication to the basketball families and community over the years. It does not go unnoticed. Our family has enjoyed watching your teams' successes and we are grateful for all you've done. We are extremely disappointed and angered that a few "entitled" individuals felt the need to bring down a good family and a successful program. Your friends and family will keep supporting you!



[Jim Valk](#)

Disappointing indeed. Thank you to you and all your coaches for everything you have done for the Waunakee basketball program over the years.

[Ryan Koecke](#)

I haven't spoken to you in years. But what I can speak on is how outstanding you were as one of my coaches at Edgewood. I remember quite well your commitment to not only the quality of play you expected of us but the growth of character you demanded of us after every practice, win or loss. You're a real leader. Men like you don't lose, you just win somewhere else.


[Gayle Paul](#)

I'm so sorry to hear this Dana. Thank you for all you've done for our kids and the program! 


[Amia Schaaf Lonigro](#)

I'm so sorry Dana.

[Jessica Lyn Berg](#)

This is absolutely heartbreaking- sorry to hear that! Stay positive and hopefully the doors open up to bigger and better things coming your way. 

[Kenneth Taylor](#)

Unbelievable. Great run

[Shelly Maly Hough](#)

Dana, I don't know where to start besides saying that I am so sorry to hear this news. My stomach sank; not only for you and the basketball program, but for the Waunakee community. What a loss! Your commitment and dedication to Waunakee basketball will never be forgotten.

[Deb Brausen](#)

I'm disheartened to hear this I appreciate the guidance, love and support. You have always given to the boys basketball program.

[Theresa Wilson](#)

Dana I'm so sorry to hear this..... the school district has some big shoes to fill in your replacement. You have built an awesome program. It's a blessing in disguise.... there is a bigger and better opportunity waiting for you. It will come. ❤️🏀

[Chris Kemper](#)

Dana, So sorry to hear another story of the many bending to the will of a few! Many new doors will open when one is closed! Your boys will always view you as Dad first and coach second.

[Kristin Stone](#)

I'm so sorry Dana. Hoping there are rainbows on the other side of this storm for you.

[Mike Chamberlin](#)

Sorry Dana. What a shame. The pain of not being able to coach your boys I'm sure hurts a lot. Keep your head high. Something positive will come out of this.

[TC Jackson](#)

This was done in Lodi in 1989. My father was victim to a group of losers that called themselves The Lodi Athletic Council. They went after a few coaches that were dedicated to the kids. It caused my family to leave Lodi.

I am so sorry this still happens and to good people like you. Really disgusting.

I didn't get to have my father coach me for my senior year. He had worked with us since 2nd grade. We would have been really good that senior year. It really changed the trajectory of my life and the other players on the team.

[Eric Colstad](#)

I cannot believe what I am reading right now. Our family has known you and your family for almost 10 years. Never once did I see anything negative. You always were a class act either through Verona LL, BDL, Waunakee athletics, or even Swing. There are some bad apples out there, and the exact thing has been happening in VAHS prep sports over the last 5 years. I wish you nothing but the best of luck, and I hope your boys get as great of a coach as what they would have had with you!

[Charlie Wills](#)

I am sorry Dana! Cowards act this way. Way to hold your head high and blessings are coming your way.

[Jason Buchman](#)

Dana please know that you and your staff are appreciated beyond words and the impact you have had on the Kee community is immeasurable! Anybody that knows anything about the game of basketball knows these kids are better for having Dana MacKenzie Tyler Selk Blake Knutson , and Jeff Knatz in their lives .

It's very disappointing that the school board bowed down to the "bullies" that we stand against on-a daily basis and who used money and power to get their way. Sickening on so many levels. The Kee loves you all and we stand with you on whatever steps come next. Thank you for your unmatched dedication and guidance you've given over the last 20 years. We are better because of it! Much love

[Madysen Paul](#)

I am so sorry, Dana! Lo and I had nothing but the best times throughout our time in the program. Thank you for everything!!!

[Amanda Hirsch](#)

What a colossal mistake they have made. Your accomplishments with that program speak volumes. I also know firsthand the impact you as a coach have had on your players (even the really old ones 40+ years old). At least you can hold your head high knowing you're an amazing coach and put your all into that program.

[Joe Gorius](#)

You're a good coach and great guy Dana! Maybe time to go turn a college program around.. good luck in whatever you decide to do.

[Adam Rotar](#)

Sorry to hear man. Absolutely disgusting.

[Michael McNulty](#)

A shame Coach, hang in and stay strong

[Ellyn Henrekin](#)

So sorry Dana, that's not ok!

[Justin Leonard](#)

Mineral Point girls still need a head coach. PE and AD available. We would love to have you.

[Brett Washburn](#)

This is so messed up. You did an incredible job there for so long. Someone else is going to be lucky to have you lead their program. Good luck to you and your boys. I'll be rooting for you all from afar!

[Bryan Donaldson](#)

Waunakee made a huge mistake, one of the most respected and influential coaches in the state of Wisconsin. Glad that I had the opportunity to train some of his best players he's ever had. I pray they reverse this decision, as coach [Dana MacKenzie](#) NEEDS to be on the sidelines next year.

[Patrick Collins](#)

Team [Dana MacKenzie](#) forever! This should serve as another warning to be careful who you vote for your school board. This is a completely outrageous decision that will only hurt the kids in the Waunakee program. I am looking forward to seeing Dana continue to excel elsewhere.

[Matthew Hirsch](#)

A GREAT coach! An even better man, father and friend! With time they will realize the giant mistake they have/are making. You have taken that program to new heights they never would have known without you and your assistant coaches! We are here for you!

[Rebecca Murray](#)

"Any jackass can kick down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one." (Sam Rayburn and LBJ)

Thank you for all the good you've done for the communities you've served. This might be the close of a long chapter, but you've got many blank pages to fill, Dana.

[Chris 'ct' Tierney](#)



Dana - I hope you already know my feelings. This is absurd. I'm sure you already know things will work themselves out just fine, this is just a man-made bump in the road. In typical Dino fashion you kept your statement classy, something I would very much struggle with. Please, anyone who reads this feel more than free to message me the names of the people behind this as their role in the situation is clear and they are owed zero anonymity. The story is already coming out, I just want to cross a few names off my list.

[Lisa Hamilton](#)

I am shocked and disappointed to hear this news. We have a great basketball program due to your leadership and the program and staff that has been built over the years. I am very sad as well that you will miss out on coaching your boys. This will hurt the community and the school program. Wishing you the best Dana in your next steps. Lucas enjoyed the basketball program over the years while he was in it. Thank you for all the blood, sweat and tears.

[Jenny Bunbury-Johnson](#)

Dana thank you for your years of dedication and time you have given to build the hoops program in Waunakee. Our own boys have had an opportunity to start with an amazing base of basketball with all the camps and opportunities you created

For these kids! You are not just the varsity coach, you have created a culture that is very respected. From our youth boys program to varsity. I wish there was input from the community and all players for this decision to be made. You and your coaches deserve more I am sorry this is happening   Thank you for all you have done for the kids and community.

[Jill Hughey](#)

[Jenny Bunbury-Johnson](#) well said!! “TRADITION STARTS HERE!” Thank you, [Dana](#), for starting it...it’s up to us to continue it.

[Betsy Duncan-Lynch](#)

The school is losing one of the most talented coaches in the area. I know you’ll move on to bigger and better things. In the meantime, you have 100% support from your friends and family. You are the best Dana Mac

[DeDe White Freeman](#)

Anybody that knows anything about the game of basketball knows these kids are better for having Dana MacKenzie, Tyler Selk & Jeff Knatz in their lives. All the best to you, Coach.

[Mark Przybelski](#)

Nice job Dana!

[Katie Foreman Misfeldt](#)

[Dana MacKenzie](#) you are a class act. Nolan loves playing for you in the youth program and in Swing. He has such respect for you. It is so disappointing that this happened.

[Lisa Agnes May](#)

So sorry to hear this new, [Dana MacKenzie](#). As this door closes, allow the next great evolutionary adventure begin, keep shining 🌟

[Brad Lutes](#)

Keep your head held high. You did it the right way

[Michelle Cliff](#)

I couldn't be more disappointed about the decision that was made. It makes me sick. This program and everything you've built will not be the same without your excellent leadership. You've always got our support, and gratitude for all you've done and all that's still to come.

[Brock Bidlingmaier](#)

Wow! That’s beyond disappointing. You built a heck of a program and helped many young men better themselves along the way. People that are willing to invest as much as you have are hard to find. Good luck in whichever direction you decide to go next [Dana](#)

[Megan Soderberg](#)

It is shameful how the loudest few have so much power. We desperately need great coaches and leaders- yet this kind of stuff keeps driving out the good ones. So sorry, Dana, and my heart breaks for you and your sons that you won’t be coaching them at Waunakee, after all you have invested in the program and community.

[Misty Lewis](#)



One of the best coaches hard to replace someone like u Dana

[Kyle Goepfert Jenson](#)

Dana- my daughter never played basketball FOR you, but she's worked WITH you for years. The news of your departure is devastating to the program - and as a person who sees what you do behind the scenes - I can formally state there is no one who can replace you. The time, effort, love, commitment, compassion, and attention you have given to this entire program (and the players involved) is priceless and not able to be replicated! I am sorry for what you are going through and ultimately for the ripple effects of this terrible decision. People are going to soon realize "you never know what you have until it's gone." Thank you Dana for everything you did!! This family is extremely grateful for what you provided to our son while he was in the youth program and to our daughter as part of the high school program.

[Becky Kesler](#)

Dana, I am so sorry to hear this. My heart goes out to you with being unable to coach your boys and the rest of your basketball team. Take care and know we're thinking of you. 🤔🏀💚💛

[Brad Foster](#)

I'm very sorry, Dana.

[Erika Matoushek Sweeney](#)

For someone who knows you from years past and is unfamiliar with the situation your handling of this is with grace and professionalism. I can only imagine how hurt and angered you are. You have always been so kind. Not sure when this world became so angry and vengeful. Stay strong You have clearly touched many lives ❤️

[Brian Hammermeister](#)

I just can't believe this. Dana is a great Man

[Clare Broadway](#)

I hate hearing this, Dana! You did great things for the program and I have nothing but positive things to say about my time there. Keep your head up

[Tricia Holm](#)

I am so sorry Dana, Waunakee is losing a great coach, mentor and a fantastic person

[Kelly Walker](#)

This is an extremely disappointing decision by Waunakee Community School District. You've always been a great asset to the Waunakee Basketball program! Thank you for all you've done throughout the years!

[Dave Ring](#)

Good luck Dana! I think it's complete bullshit as to how it was handled. Good luck to you and your family.

[Jane Ann](#)

This is an extremely disappointing decision by the BOE, especially with your sons in the program. Thank you for everything you have done and I wish you the best of luck in the future.

[Jennifer Monge Fink](#)

Absolutely gutted for you, [Dana](#)! Waunakee is losing not only a great coach, but a great mentor for the kids! I have watched you create a culture of hard work both on and off the court, form a tradition of excellence within the team and most importantly you have turned a team into family that will last a lifetime! Praying for you, your boys and all of the kids that will not get the benefits of being coached by a truly wonderful man. Hold your head high & be proud of what you have accomplished! 🙏❤️

[Tom Schwarz](#)

So sorry and shocked to hear of this news. Your dedication to coaching and mentoring youth is incredible. You are a leader. Stay strong and stay involved.

[Eric Michael Rottier](#)

Sorry buddy, that really blows.

[Melissa LeGrand](#)

Speechless. Don't understand how this keeps happening to great humans.

[David Edge](#)

Wow. Not surprising to read all of the support. I know you are one of the most highly respected in the area. You turned that program around. Anything said about your character behind those doors is complete BS. I'm sorry.

[Shelley Smith-Koechel](#)

This is very upsetting, so wrong and a real disservice to the Waunakee Boys Basketball program. Shame on the haters behind this.

[Rob Hernandez](#)

Waunakee as a school and a district used to be better than this. What a sad day for a program that became successful and consistent in every way on Dana's watch ... on and off the court!

[Tony Burns](#)

Dana you are one solid guy, devastating news as I know you poured your heart into the program only to see it ripped away. The madness needs to stop...you sir made and make a difference...

[Brett Lythjohan](#)

You are a great coach! You will find something

[Leia Schneeberger](#)

They pulled this crap with Jesus Torres, the Women's Varsity Soccer coach years ago. The BEST SOCCER COACH I've EVER had or Known and a WONDERFUL human being. They also pushed me out after just one season coaching their U16 club girls team. Then they bitch about how there are too few women coaches. SMH Sorry you are going through this.

[Gary Oftedahl](#)

Sorry Dana! You're just the next victim of the "ME" world we're living in now. Cancel what I don't like!!!

The dedication to your craft has created proof of your skill and knowledge of basketball. As disheartening as this moment seems- it just may be the beginning of a new and greater opportunity! A new chapter is about to be written-:).
All the Best!

[Alexander Schmidtknecht](#)

This is sad. As part of his first class I knew the program was in good hands. Sad to see you go coach

[Steve Ellis](#)

Your supporters outweigh the others. You're a "Class Act". You'll be alright. You're a man of Faith, Family, and Finances This too shall pass , and you'll come out smelling like a rose. Trust God Coach and above everything else, Keep The Faith.

[Travis Cliff](#)

I've told you this before, but you guys do it the right way. Focusing on fun and inclusion at the youth level when most of the world only cares about winning while also fostering a level of excellence and integrity within the High School program. I appreciate all you've done for my son as well as all the other boys that have come through the program over the years.

[Brian Golden](#)

I would let Dana and his staff coach my kids without any hesitation. I actually would be honored to have him develop them into young men.

[Kara Conway Mulligan](#)

Pitiful and cowardly. You've been a class act since your EHS days. So lick those wounds, believe in karma, and take that class act and those wins to a place that deserves you. Onward!

[Jessica Uftring](#)

I'm so sorry to hear this Dana, for you, the boys, and Waunakee

[Kurt Nickel](#)

very sad!! How ??? I don't get how this happens. Who is better than him and his Coaches??? Those coaches are the best for our kids....and I have a ax to grind. Wrong decision!

[Cheryl Orcholski Mohr](#)

Dana u have no control over this. Your record speaks for it self, but more importantly the boys you helped to become productive members of society. 🙌❤️🏀
As God Closes doors he opens windows. 🙏

[Patti Mansky](#)

Dana, I'm so, so sorry this happened. You, your staff have built a program that Waunakee is proud of.
I'm very disappointed with the WSB. No backbone, well there is always the next election.

[James Skelton](#)

Dana I followed your career from Pecatonica to Waunakee. I can't imagine what these people are thinking. I coached you at BS and your brothers as well. You were great kids and sportsmen.

Your dad was an upstanding citizen and I enjoyed our friendship. You will probably find a much better job. As they say, "when one door closes another one opens ". Jim Skelton Blessed Sacramento

[Steve Royko](#)

Dana - Really sorry and having a difficult time processing this. Another example of the wrong people being in charge and having influence. You're a class act, a great competitor and a good man. Looking forward to what's next in a Hall of Fame career!

[Bob Suter](#)

Second that wholeheartedly Rob ! Dana was and is one of the BEST in State of Wis.

[Karl Morrin](#)

I'm sorry Dana!! You are such a great coach! This makes me mad!!
Stay strong my friend!

[Tom Moss](#)

20+ years ago we were talking X's and O's and how to develop a program from the roots, officiating and player development at UWP. Your vision, focus, determination, desire and discipline to do the right thing for the kids never wavered and was spot on all those years ago. You are not just winning games. You are not just developing players. You are developing young adults to be able to rise above and be more than they ever thought they could ever be!

[George Hanson](#)

they say, "when one door closes, another door opens" so you will have better days ahead! Lucille Hanson (Mike's Mom)

[Amelia Royko Maurer](#)

Dana, as expected, I've heard nothing but wonderful things about your coaching and you have the support and admiration of so many. I hope you fight the cowards and justice is served.

[Billy Van Wie](#)

DMAC - I love reading all the messages supporting how you have done things. I have known you for over 30 years. Some of the stuff that was "spread" is just laughable and disgusting. Thanks for the opportunities you and your staff have given our boys. Teaching them to play for each other & not focusing on wins at the youth level. Keep your head high. You outclassed them all with how you have handled this!

[William G. Abraham](#)

I'm sorry to hear about this unfortunate turn of events, my good man.

[Casey John](#)

Go to a conference opponent and wreck them for years to come.