

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
BEACON FALLS AND PROSPECT

Woodland Regional High School

**Arnold Frank, Ph.D.**  
Principal

**Dana Mulligan**  
Assistant Principal

**Brian Fell**  
Assistant Principal  
Athletic Director

February 15, 2013

Testimony Regarding

House Bill 6383 - AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

My name is Brian Fell and I am the Athletic Director at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, serving the towns of Prospect and Beacon Falls. I am also the President of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD). I have been an Athletic Director for more than 20 years and I am writing this testimony in support of House Bill 6383. Defining the position of Athletic Director and setting standards for hiring individuals that serve in that role is long overdue as the landscape of our profession has changed tremendously. Student safety is our primary concern, particularly given the physical nature of our programs and the large number of spectators that attend our events. The responsibilities of the Athletic Director require strict adherence to safety protocols and legislative mandates. The Athletic Director must ensure that every coach in his/her program possesses a coaching permit required by law and that those permits are maintained by ongoing CEU's. Most Athletic Directors attend specific professional development training in order to provide those CEU's to their own staff at no cost. In 2005, legislation was enacted requiring all coaches be evaluated. In 2010, legislation passed that requires the ongoing education of coaches specific to concussions and the recognition of such injuries. Other issues such as hazing and bullying, harassment and the use of electronic and social media have also increased the duties of the Athletic Director position. In addition, each Athletic Director has to deal with a multitude of issues on a daily basis from parents, ranging from playing time complaints to disagreements with the decisions of coaches. Athletic Directors also must make continuous efforts to ensure that good sportsmanship and fair play are being learned and practiced by athletes, parents, coaches and spectators so that a safe and healthy environment exists for each and every student-athlete. The requirements placed upon the Athletic Director position are too many to list but I can assure you our plates are full and more is being asked of us each day. What is staggering is that in our profession we have a 15% turnover each year and nearly 70% of our membership has less than 5 years' experience. Yet there is no statutory language that defines what we do or even states this position exists.

Although I support the language written in House Bill 6383, I feel it is incomplete. We need to protect those individuals who have been hired before the implementation date and were credentialed under previous regulations. May I suggest the following be added to section 1(b) & 1(c):

“Any person who holds the appropriate credentials and serves in the position of Athletic Director prior to July 1, 2013 shall not be subject to the provisions of this section.”

Sincerely,

*Brian Fell*

Brian Fell,  
Athletic Director, Woodland Regional High School  
President, Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors