



Hello Fellow Board Members,

It is amazing how fast time has flown since our meeting in May. It is hard to believe we are in November already. Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner, which has gotten me thinking a lot about our friends in the eastern part of North Carolina. Hurricane Matthew's destruction has taken a heavy and hard toll on many of our member schools and their facilities.

Prior to Matthew's arrival, we could walk out to our ball fields and stadiums and flip a switch and we had lights for the night's activities. The fans arrived early for the Friday night football game against their archrival. As you know, it is important to get there early to snag one of those coveted 50-yard line seats. As the fans made their way to the home stand they could stop by the concession stand and grab a hot dog with all the fixings, along with steaming hot french fries. Of course you need that Coke or Pepsi to make the meal complete. As a coach, I remember seeing players full of excitement and feeling that excitement build on the field as we warmed up. In order to show the visiting team whose "house" they were in, the players would glance over to the other side of the 50-yard line hoping one of their players would be intimidated by the intensity of their contorted brows and black grease under each eye. The announcer introduced each team to the cheers of their fans. Can you feel the excitement? Absolutely...but today we have families who only see this as a happy memory compared to their current reality.

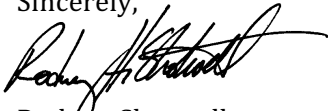
Homes and property have been destroyed; families are relocating to local shelters or leaving to stay with family members. A family stands in front of the remnants of their home, which a month ago the lawn was cut, flowers were blooming, and the smell of hamburgers and hotdogs cooking on the grill brought a smile to their faces. Today, the mother is holding her infant son, a five-year-old holding onto her leg, and the son who is a sophomore on the football team, hugs his mother around her shoulder as they weep over the loss of their house, their belongings. I play this scenario in my head often when I am sending thoughts and prayers to our brothers and sisters in the East. One of the things that is helping our communities come back together is high school athletics. These families are yearning for the normalcy they enjoyed a month ago.

Returning to Friday night football games and enjoying the sense of community has helped the healing process. We will continue to keep our friends in the East in our thoughts and prayers. I would like to ask you as board members to come prepared to make a donation to the schools directly impacted by Matthew when we convene on the first morning. Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to attend the winter board meeting beginning on November 30th. There are many current topics we will be discussing and making decisions on during our time together. Our focus must continue to be on what is in the best interest of our student athletes and our association. We will also have our new board members joining our team. Please join me as we welcome our new colleagues to the board of directors.

May you have safe travels. Que and I are looking forward to seeing each of you!

Sincerely,



Rodney Shotwell



NCHSAA Board of Directors:

We are gearing up for our Winter Board of Directors' meeting and look forward to having you with us in Chapel Hill.

For your convenience, we have provided pertinent information for your upcoming board meeting. Please **review** and **bring all information with you.**

It is very important that you contact me if you have a conflict and must make changes to your housing accommodations and dinner plans. To avoid being charged, we must submit changes to room and dinner totals one week in advance.

The following is a list of things for your convenience:

1. **Phone Calls** – will be held (unless otherwise requested by you)
2. **Messages** – will be posted
3. **Sweater/jacket** – for your comfort, please bring either.

As always, during your free time, we invite you to enjoy some of the surrounding attractions:

University Mall (Estes Drive),
Downtown Chapel Hill (great specialty shops)
The Streets at Southpoint (I-40 off at Fayetteville Road)
Eastgate Shopping Center (15-501 N to Ephesus Church Road - left)
DSW Shoes (Patterson Place in Durham)

If there is anything we can do to make your visit more enjoyable, please let us know.

We thank you for all you do for the student-athletes of North Carolina.

Regards,

Pepper Hines