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*Board of Commissioners*  
**COUNTY OF ARMSTRONG**

November 4, 2021

Public Meeting 9:00am

Armstrong County Board of Commissioners would like to address the event and incident that took place at the Belmont Complex on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 2021. On this date there was a varsity hockey game between visiting Mars and the Armstrong River Hawks. During this contest, the Armstrong student “fan” section estimated to be between 50-60 students both male and female, representing grades 7 through 12, engaged in inappropriate chants directed at the Mar’s female goal-tender. This type of behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our county facility.

The Armstrong County Commissioners would like to offer a public apology to this female student athlete. We are fully supportive of female hockey teams and female hockey players at our facility. They should feel safe at our complex and should not have been exposed to this type of behavior in the bleachers. We have recently made a \$150,000 investment to add a female locker room in support of female hockey players.

After learning of this event on Monday, November 1, this administration quickly reached out to the Belmont Complex Director and coordinated with the AAHL/River Hawks hockey organization, PIHL, and ASD administration to review this matter, including review of video.

Our team reviewed security and staff protocols on that evening and developed new protocols moving forward. In collaboration with ASD, PIHL, and the AAHL/River Hawks hockey organization the following changes will take place moving forward:

- a.)** No Armstrong student spectators 7-12 grade will be permitted at any of the Armstrong River Hawks Varsity and Middle School games for the remainder of the 2021-2022 Season.
- b.)** Siblings of players are permitted but must be accompanied by and seated with their parent or guardian.
- c.)** Any spectator removed from the facility by a game official, security, or our staff will forfeit their privilege to reenter our facility for the remainder of the 2021-2022 hockey/skating season.
- d.)** We want to remind our visitors that alcohol is not permitted on the property nor tailgating before any and all games.

We want our student athletes and our visitors to feel safe.