

ATTN via email:

Dr. Brad Wallace, HHS Principal

Jeff Waldron

Susan Mattivi-Gierga

Greg Burk

Bob Brown

Kathie Williams Chase

Ann Jesse Driever

May 28, 2024

Aloha e Group:

Have copied Dr. Wallace, as I faxed over a letter last Friday. I am not perfect; make mistakes. None of you are perfect. We all make mistakes. As a group, we failed the Class of 1975. Requested assistance from Dr. Wallace because our conflict and lack of communication now threatens a priceless memory for our classmates. I went public because you collectively shut me out. Simply wanted classmates to vote.

I now ask that classmates are our primary focus going forward. Last Wednesday, May 22nd, your team met and voted to resign from the Reunion 50 Planning Committee. I accepted your resignations. Please transfer the requested Class of 1975 materials to me. Time is our adversary at this point. I do not harbor ill-will toward any of you. Have no intention of keeping this negativity in the public view. Let's put this chapter behind us. Greg and I will complete the online web-based portal and reach out to as many classmates as we can. Once they have voted, we'll share their feedback. Each of you are invited to assist Reunion 50 planning and implementation once our classmates have selected the format and agenda.

Aloha e Kathie ~

Thank you for your heartfelt letter. Last time we spoke, you were driving and there were kids screaming in the backseat. Was very hard for me to hear you. In the middle of our conversation, you arrived at your destination and had to abruptly end our conversation. Let me be clear. I never said, "it's only a stupid reunion anyway, nobody cares about a reunion."

This miscommunication is exactly why I prefer written comments when people are busy and distracted. I disconnected last time because you were again distracted at a youth football game. We cannot have a complex conversation without setting aside time to truly listen to each other. Appreciate that you took the time to write your thoughts.

I'm really proud of you for your work on addiction and with babies and children. Have been proud of you for over 50 years. Beginning in 2009, I underwent training by the CDC and University of New Mexico School of Medicine to certify as an addiction counselor. Project ECHO invited me due to my years of community activism — particularly as a celebrated athlete — to keep our youngsters from initiating tobacco use, smoking, alcohol consumption or experiment with illicit substances.

I've been volunteering in prisons, jails, parks with the homeless, and with various community groups to educate about dangers of addiction, particularly opioids, provide addiction counseling and keep people from abusing illicit or prescribed substances. How wonderful we work in a similar field.

Cannabis is one alternative to opioids and other addictive medications. Cannabis is believed to be less addictive than alcohol, tobacco, opioids and many other powerful substances. Advocating for cannabis is difficult in society. President Richard Nixon in 1970 criminalized cannabis, classified cannabis as Schedule I drug, and all of us were told cannabis was “too dangerous” to even research.

There were millions of users; hundreds of millions of Americans and citizens around the world legally use today. Our government denied research; still does. This policy violates all we stand for in education, as well as our democratic societies. We do not block or obstruct research. I’ve been shamed, slandered and denied employment for my efforts.

You stated, “I disagree with casual substance misuse and/or abuse of any substance which alters one’s abilities and perhaps you took that on as personal shame.” You did shame me, as I’ve been shamed for years due to my advocacy for cannabis reform. Your statement speaks for itself. You judge other people ... disagreeing with their personal decisions. Remember, Jesus turned water into wine. Jesus asked for tolerance.

My Life Story on the website speaks about my activism to increase tolerance. Our story about you and I is one of love, but also illustrates how society drove a wedge of intolerance between us. We met in 2015 after my mother’s passing. I spent over an hour discussing my political and personal actions — explaining defensively, due to the extreme shift in your perception.

We teased by text some time ago when I asked how you and I could have been such awesome friends in high school but never kissed. I now know why. Loved my Mormon classmates ... did not love the church. If interested in dating a Mormon classmate, the expectation was to attend church. My father accepted a college scholarship to play basketball for the University of Southern Mississippi. I was born there in 1957. Brown v Board of Education was decided in 1954, which forced integration of schools. Racial tension was high.

Mississippi denied Black athletes scholarships or even the opportunity to play on the university team. This discrimination horrified my parents. Due to NCAA rules at the time, my father could not transfer. They hated their experience in the deep, racist south and left immediately upon graduation.

Growing up, we all witnessed civil rights battles raging throughout our nation. As teachers, my parents walked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They were again horrified by the policies of the Mormon church that denied Black men the priesthood. Although I adored you and our friendship, they asked me not be part of the LDS church. We had a LDS Institute with a small gym on ISU campus. My Black teammates hated that place. They would not enter to practice or play. The church caused much pain. This racist policy finally changed in 1978, I believe.

The church again caused pain about cannabis ... believe the church influenced you as well. The church now accepts medical cannabis in some forms, yet the damage to society and people cannot be undone. I work tirelessly to change misguided opinion. Medical science does not support the political and social perceptions. Idaho does not allow medical or recreational cannabis use. I could be arrested coming to a reunion in Pocatello. Please think how this draconian policy impacts patients like me.

You speak kindly of your friends and our classmates. I came to this group with love for all. Our text thread is clear. Objected to doing the same at the 50th as y’all did at the 40th from the start, “Well, just to be the traditional Trouble Maker, my rule is if it was done before, Class of 75 has to do

something NEW and INNOVATIVE !!! That's why we're the greatest class in history." Thought my comments were light and positive.

Likely it's hard for YOUR GROUP to understand how you made "an outsider" feel unwelcome. There was a wall between us from the beginning. Susan even cautioned me. She asked that I not present an Enhanced Reunion idea ... suggesting I wait so she could present the concept at a later time. She warned me that YOUR GROUP was set on using the past format. Jeff simply refused to cooperate with me. I didn't want to fight. Thus, I pulled the website, and passed classmate data I had collected to Greg and Susan.

I redesigned the website and relaunched with my message to classmates criticizing the committee for not allowing a vote about reunion options. Personally, I do not have a preference ... traditional format or enhanced. It's up to our classmates. None of you were willing to discuss. Y'all just went silent and shunned me. I had to post to the public and write letters to the committee. We did not have effective lines of communication between us.

Jeff explained his anger in our recent phone call. Claims I slighted him 49 years ago. I left HHS and accepted a basketball scholarship to play for ISU, as y'all know. Around 1st of October my first year, our varsity practices kicked off. Jeff told me he walked-on to JV tryouts. Apparently, Jeff claims I was leaving the gym after a hard workout when he saw me. Jeff claims he tried to speak to me but I ignored him. He's been angry and resentful for 49 years over this alleged incident.

First, had I seen Jeff, would have been delighted to see my former teammate. I would not shun him. Would have given him a hug. Had I known he was trying out, would have offered to assist any way possible. I left HHS with great memories for classmates and teammates.

Second, I could have been exhausted; had something on my mind — can't say 49 years later — yet this is exactly my point. Jeff has harbored ill-will, pain and resentment for 49 years but refused to bring his concern to my attention. We've been connected for some ten years on Facebook. No discussion or mention! Such behavior is passive aggressive and cancerous. Destroys relationships — as it did here.

I'm so thankful you took initiative to speak up and share your feelings. Appreciate your courage. Appreciate the respect you showed me by taking the time to write. Sad we all couldn't have communicated more effectively initially.

At this time, Jeff and Roy informed me members of the committee resigned. Might be best, as there is an uncomfortable energy between us now. Here's my suggestion and request:

My only agenda was to create a voting system for our classmates so they could decide the format for Reunion 50. Greg is willing to continue work searching for classmates. I'll complete the online system. We'll hold a vote. Can't have an enhanced reunion with 30-50 classmates. Let them decide.

Appreciate it greatly if Ann would transfer the Class of 1975 funds and officially note she is stepping down. We need clear lines of authority to avoid conflict. Appreciate it greatly if Jeff would forward the login credentials for the Class of 1975 Facebook page. We'll need this social media resource to contact classmates; and would appreciate it greatly if Susan would forward the Excel spreadsheet containing the most recently-updated Class of 1975 roster of classmates.

We'll pull these materials together, connect with classmates, and solicit their feedback. If other classmates want to assist Reunion 50 planning and event coordination, I'll organize their efforts. Each of you are welcome to participate as well, if you feel you have time and interest.

I've never suggested doing LESS than the format of Reunion 40. Susan, in fact, motivated me to research and consider doing more. Many classmates across the nation prefer enhanced reunions for their 50th. Let's find out what our friends would like.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts. We have so many wonderful memories of our years at HHS. Hopefully, we can rekindle our friendship and respect for each other going forward.

In the spirit of RAMS: Right Attitude Means Success, I send my love and aloha to each of you.

Scott Goold
HHS Class of 1975 President