



August 31, 2021

A Statement From Superintendent Dr. Michael Zalar

On behalf of the Tiffin City School District, I would like to publicly apologize for manner in which the Tiffin Columbian Athletic Hall of Fame chose to recognize and induct the 1998 Girls Basketball Team into the organization.

The decision by the Selection Committee to include a member of the team who was previously removed as an individual member of the Hall of Fame for sexual misconduct was a mistake. It was also a mistake to invite this person onto school grounds and include them as a participant in the recognition ceremony.

While the Tiffin City School District does not have direct authority over the Tiffin Columbian Hall of Fame Selection Committee, we should have taken corrective action immediately when the situation was brought to our attention. A person convicted of sexual misconduct should be disqualified from membership in the Hall of Fame either as an individual or a member of a team. I am sincerely sorry that this did not happen. We can and will do better in the future.

In moving forward, I would like to use this unfortunate situation as an opportunity to address not only this specific issue, but other issues involving the safety, health, and well-being of our students, staff, and community. I am committed to working with all members of our community to ensure that your voice is heard and Tiffin City Schools is doing everything it can to promote a safe and healthy learning environment for our students.

Once again, I am very sorry for the manner in which this incident was handled. I am committed to making the changes necessary to ensure this does not happen again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Zalar".

Michael E. Zalar, Ph.D.
Superintendent