

# HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Administrative Office



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*Jennifer Mitchell*  
*Superintendent*

*Staci Young*  
*Director of Student Services*

*Matthew R. Gibson*  
*Business Manager*

January 5, 2023

Dear Athletic Community:

The district has been very lucky to have a consistent Athletic Trainer working in our district through a contract with Drayer Physical Therapy for a very long time. Dan was assigned to work with the district through Drayer approximately 13 years ago. Trainer Dan has made a professional decision to leave Drayer. We are all saddened by this situation as Dan has been a member of our Huntingdon family serving us exceptionally well as a trainer and friend. We truly wish him well on his future endeavors.

The district had recently renewed a two year agreement with Drayer for services; but unfortunately, due to their inability to secure another trainer with Dan's departure, they have been forced to leave the contract early. This has not been for a lack of effort on their part. Athletic trainers are in short supply and our rural area makes the challenge much more difficult. At this time, trainers are now required to obtain a Master's Level certification creating a lag in the process and a higher demand as well.

At the direction of the school board, we began to search immediately for other companies in which we could have another agreement for athletic trainers. After speaking with six other local medical providers, we have exhausted all possible options of entering into another contract for services due to a lack of available trainers as was the case with Drayer.

Dan will be departing the district on Friday, January 6, 2023, so Mr. Young, the athletic director, and I have begun working on a short and long term plan to meet the needs of athletes, as like you, we are concerned about the safety and care of all our student athletes. Throughout the month of January, Emergency Medical Responders will be employed to be present at all home athletic events to ensure that a trained responder is available in the event of a medical need or injury. Additionally, we have begun conversations with a few licensed trainers who work locally and would be interested in a supplemental contract for additional work to aid our athletes' training needs immediately after school and practice time. When the contracts have been secured and office hours are set we will communicate the schedule with coaches and athletes.