

April 16, 2025

Good Evening,

As many of you are now aware, a decision not to renew the contract for Coach Troy Gore was made last week. While I'm not able to discuss the specifics of this personnel matter due to confidentiality, I want to acknowledge that this was not an easy decision. However, it was one I felt was necessary to support the long-term direction and success of our football program.

I understand that the timing of events and lack of immediate communication may have caused confusion and concern. I'd like to take a moment to outline the sequence of events for clarity:

- The decision regarding Coach Gore was finalized at the end of the school day on Wednesday, April 9th.
- That same evening, I reached out via email to the Football Parent Board to schedule a meeting to discuss the situation.
- At the same time, it was important to ensure that the team heard the news directly from trusted staff before the start of spring break. A meeting was held on Friday, April 11, during the last block of the day, where Coach McFadden, Coach Tolbert, and Coach Dandridge joined our athletic director, Mr. Sam Sheridan, and myself to speak with the players, listen to their concerns, and offer support.
- Yesterday, April 15, Mr. Sheridan and I met with the parent board, the members of which shared their concerns and feedback they received from other football families.

As part of our commitment to transparency and strong partnership moving forward, the Football Parent Board requested and we agreed to have an in-person parent/guardian meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Little Theatre. This will be an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ask questions, and begin the important work of moving forward together.

I apologize for not reaching out sooner. Please know that my intention was always to communicate, but I recognize that the delay in reaching out to the entire football family has caused unnecessary frustration and uncertainty.

In the meantime, the coaching staff who participated in the April 11 meeting are committed to keeping our student-athletes active and supported during the remainder of the offseason. They will be reaching out soon with a revised training schedule and calendar.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I hope to see many of you at the meeting on April 22nd.

Dr. Benjamin Hammond
Principal, Cheltenham High School