

Superintendent's Note: On Community Spirit and a Home Town "A" Game

Dear Community,

Over the last year, many of my reports to the public have focused on difficult issues such as bias and bullying. And many of them have focused on Board and District Office reactions to these incidents, rather than stories focused on the good news of our amazing students or inspiring staff. But today, I'd like to focus this space entirely on the incredible achievement of the AHS Hornets men's basketball team, which heads later this evening to Sacramento to compete for the CIF Division II State Championship.

When the world is in as much turmoil as it is right now, being able to celebrate the accomplishment and spirit of a hometown public school team is remarkably healing. One reason most of us have dedicated our careers to public education is because public schools lie at the heart of their communities and are supported by a network of not only dedicated and talented volunteers, but also city agencies and local non-profit organizations. Public school districts offer a safe and constructive place for a community – literally a "common unity" – around which citizens and institutions rally. And here in Alameda, we have seen the community rally again and again, not only to fund our schools, but also to protect our students, beautify our campuses, support our teachers, enrich our programs, and, now, to send this team of talented scholar athletes to the state championship.

Thank you, Hornets volunteers, for so quickly organizing the trip and working with us to generate publicity for the game. Thank you, Alameda Theatre, for so quickly agreeing to show the game on a big screen Friday afternoon (details below). Thank you, Alameda community members, for sharing and amplifying the great excitement we all feel about the upcoming game. And thank you, especially, Hornets coaches and scholar athletes, for bringing your "A" game, your talent, your hard work, and your team spirit this far, this season. We are all rooting for you!

Sincerely,

Sean McPhetridge
Superintendent of Schools