



August 15, 2018

Dr. Thomas Burkett
Executive Chairman, VISAA
Banner Christian School
1501 S Providence Road
Richmond, VA 23236

Dr. Burkett,

I have been following with great interest the disturbing precedent recently set by the VISAA Executive Committee to expand the role of the VISAA from its core mission of ensuring fair and healthy competition between teams from your very diverse member schools to moral arbiter on contentious social issues that undermine respect for that diversity.

By sanctioning the Board's decision, as Executive Chairman, to prohibit the VISAA Swimming Committee from considering Liberty University as a venue for the State Championship Swim meet because of their Biblical views of morality, you have unnecessarily introduced division where there has previously been unity. You have allowed one group of VISAA member schools to inappropriately use the Board to force their ideology on other members.

As the founder and Director of Seton School, **I do not think it is in the best interest of our organization or our athletes to start using the VISAA to push any political agenda or ideology, particularly one that discriminates against the traditional Christian values that are so well represented in the membership.**

The VISAA has a clear mission and standing as a moral arbiter is not part of it. The VISAA position on the contentious social issues of the day should be that the VISAA should not be taking positions.

I respectfully request that the VISAA Executive Committee adopt the following two resolutions to restore unity and respect between members schools of the VISAA.
No school need sacrifice its deeply held beliefs to adopt the following, and by

doing so, the VISAA Board can get back to your core mission of serving the VISAA's diverse membership, including Catholic and Christian schools that promote traditional Biblical values:

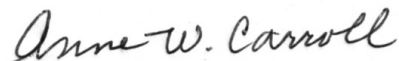
1. Be it resolved that we, the VISAA Executive Committee, recognize the strength that lies in our diversity. The VISAA will respect the values of each member school, even if individual members of the Board do not agree with those values.
2. Be it resolved that the VISAA Swimming Committee is authorized to consider Liberty University's new Aquatic Center on the strengths of its merits as a venue for the State Swimming and Diving Championship Meet, alone. Those merits include the economics of the facility. Given that the Swimming Committee has not fully evaluated the merits and economics of the facility for the State Championship Meet, we rescind the blanket prohibition on using Liberty University as inconsistent with the mission of the VISAA.

Dr. Burkett, I am grateful for your consideration of this important matter. As the Headmaster of a Christian School, I am sure that you can see how a VISAA member school like Seton School could interpret the Board's decision as an inappropriate assault on the freedom to speak out and practice our faith as Christians.

I see the Board's decision for a blanket prohibition on the use of Liberty University facilities as divisive, potentially turning one portion of the VISAA membership against another portion. I sincerely hope that you will not allow the Board to be used in this way any longer.

Over the past 15 years, Seton School has been one of your active members in advancing the sport of swimming in the VISAA, and we hope to continue this important service to our fellow VISAA member schools in an environment of restored mutual respect.

Very Respectfully,



Mrs. Anne Carroll
Director, Seton School

Cc: Richard Kemper, President, VISAA
Shannon Fisher, VISAA Liaison to the Swimming Committee
Greg Guldin, President, VISAA Swimming and Diving