

Dear Flames families,

First, let us thank you for your prayers and support! Your kind words, calls, emails, and statements indicating you were praying for our team and for the Flames organization and families has been such an encouragement and blessing to us as we navigated the difficult waters of this week. Storms are never a pleasant experience, but we know that we serve the One who calms storms, and we are praying for His calm, His peace, and His guidance in these challenging days.

In our discussions yesterday, Philippians 2:3-4 was brought up, and what an appropriate verse for our team as we met and discussed next steps. The apostle Paul wrote, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." That is our prayer and our goal as we seek to make the best decisions for our Flames kids and families, and most importantly, decisions that honor our God.

We know there has been a lot of angst in recent days, and not a small amount of negativity and unkind words shared online and elsewhere. The board and some leaders have been accused of selectively enforcing the bylaws, of lies being told, and of integrity being broken. This week three of the Flames board members, including the Athletic Director, as well as the Secretary, chose to resign by email. This has caused a significant burden on the organization and on our hearts.

Our board has a very clear goal of open and transparent communication. We understand there are many who have questions and concerns. The last thing we want to do is have gossip and hearsay spread through the Flames families. **Anytime you have questions, you can always reach out to our team at FlamesHSboard@gmail.com.** You will get a response in as timely a manner as possible (please keep in mind that the Board, like all Flames, are volunteers and we have other jobs too).

The remaining board members, Keith LeValley and Bryan Janda, accepted two Flames volunteers who offered to help the board during this time. On Thursday, William Attaway and Jeffrey Rodman were voted in as acting board members. Our desire is to grow the board immediately to seven active board members, so we are in need of three more. We are looking for men and women who have a heart for the mission of Flames and who have time and energy available to assist in navigating during this season. Spiritual gifts that would be helpful for this role include leadership, discernment, and administration.

Here's a short bio on each of the new acting board members:

- Dr. William Attaway has served in local church ministry for over 25 years, and is currently the Lead Pastor of Southview Community Church, a church in Herndon where he has served since 2004. He holds a Ph.D. in Old Testament (with an emphasis in Biblical Backgrounds and Archaeology). He is a Leadership and Executive Coach for Catalytic Leadership, LLC, a company he founded to help leaders to INTENTIONALLY grow and thrive. William and Charlotte have been a part of Flames for over four years, and their daughters Erin and Allison have been actively involved in a variety of sports and clubs.

- Dr. Jeffrey Rodman is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and a Certified Grants Specialist (CGS) experienced in public speaking, training, grant writing, and fundraiser. He is the founder of Here-4-You Christian Grant Consulting, a private consulting firm focused on growing Christian Ministries and Churches. Dr. Rodman received his BS in Chemical Dependency Counseling and M.Ed. in Counseling and Development from George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia and his PhD in Religion from Christian Bible College in Rocky Mount, NC. . Rodman is also a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner (LSATP) and a Board Certified Clinical Master Hypnotherapist (CCMHT) in Virginia and has a private psychotherapy practice operating in Front Royal, Virginia for other past 20 years. The Rodman Family has been a part of Flames for nearly 20 years

What is the Board doing now?

- Our board is currently making some administrative changes to the Flames bylaws, both to address some inadequacies that we see and to help ensure that the current situation is not repeated in the future.
- We are making plans to meet with our head coaches this weekend to talk about next steps.
- We are [actively soliciting new board members, new officers, and team members for new roles](#) that we believe will make Flames better and stronger as we delegate and share the responsibilities of the organization. Click above on the link to volunteer!

There's so much more to come, but these are the first steps of many. Our desire is to honor God in our service to Flames, to serve families to the best of our ability, and to be accessible and transparent in our leadership.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. You can email our entire team at FlamesHSboard@gmail.com.

Thank you for continuing with us on the journey - we look forward to the best days of Flames that we believe are still ahead.

Serving Him with you,

–Keith LeValley, Bryan Janda, William Attaway, Jeffrey Rodman