

NORTH PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

33 Mountain Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

www.nplainfield.org

Michelle Vella
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: (908) 769-6060 Ext. 6104
Fax: (908) 755-5490

October 9, 2018

Dear North Plainfield Community,

I am disappointed to write this letter and inform the North Plainfield Community that South Plainfield has requested a cancellation of the Thanksgiving Day football game this year and the years moving forward. Please be assured that our district did not agree to this request with ease, and we spent a great deal of time consulting with stakeholders, as well as with the NJSIAA and leaders from our conference.

South Plainfield made this request as a result of the new playoff schedule approved by the NJSIAA. Playoffs were advanced one week to accommodate an additional round of semifinals in the State group. If either team is in the semifinal game, the Thanksgiving Day game would be cancelled and we wanted to ensure that our team played a full schedule.

Both Athletic Directors conferred with Jack DuBois, Assistant Director of NJSIAA, who stated that the schedule was approved by the conferences that make up the Mid State Conference, thus there is a binding contract to play as scheduled on Thanksgiving Day. The discussion included assurances from South Plainfield that they would forfeit the game should we move forward with the established schedule. NJSIAA stated they could forfeit, and the win would count for our record. While this was a possibility we were willing to consider, we reflected upon this decision resulting in one less game for our football team to play. This encouraged us to have a conversation with the coaches and players who expressed the desire to play and not lose a football game from their schedule.

At this point, we realized that a compromise would be in the best interests of our students. As a result, we have rescheduled the Thanksgiving Day game to November 8th/10th (we are awaiting the finalized date from NJSIAA), and should either team be in a playoff game, the game will be played November 16th.

We are disappointed to see the end of this long-standing tradition for North Plainfield and South Plainfield. We are committed to seeking ways to establish a new tradition. We appreciate your understanding and support with this disappointing situation.

Warmly,



Michelle Vella
Superintendent of Schools