



Ronan School District No. 30

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The Ronan School District is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of its students and student-athletes. While the District does not generally comment on personnel matters, it is necessary to refute claims made by the *Lake County Leader* regarding the characterization of reports received by the District regarding head softball coach Joe Verbanic.

On April 9, 2026, the District placed Mr. Verbanic on administrative leave pending an investigation into reports concerning interactions involving him. The allegations received by the District leading to Mr. Verbanic being placed on administrative leave were different than what has been reported by the *Lake County Leader*.

Just to be clear, whenever the District receives a report like the one stated, we take it very seriously. We will put the coach on administrative leave so we can conduct the necessary interviews without interference. This in no way means the coach is innocent or guilty of the alleged actions.

The *Leader* article stated Verbanic was hired in November of 2025 and faced accusations by roughly a dozen players who testified in front of the Ronan School Board Nov. 10 about issues stemming from last spring, accompanied by each of their families. This is false. The Board listened to the concerns of a few players and their parents who did not want this coach rehired, and the Board listened to a few players and their parents who did support the coach. The Board chose to offer a contract for the head softball coach position to Mr. Verbanic, and he accepted.

Mr. Verbanic chose to resign before an investigation could be completed, but he denied he engaged in any misconduct.