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**From:** Vandenberg, Courtney  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:08 PM  
**To:** bccassistants  
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**Subject:** FW: Please send!

2020 FEB 20 PM 1:41

BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

The below recommendation e-mail was sent regarding the Greater Seminole Area Special Recreation District appointment which will be on the March 10<sup>th</sup> BCC agenda.

*Courtney Vandenberg*

Executive Aide to Commissioner Charlie Justice  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
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Clearwater, Florida 33756  
(727) 464-3363 Office  
[cvandenberg@pinellascounty.org](mailto:cvandenberg@pinellascounty.org)

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**From:** Steve Siesel <steve@siesel.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:24 PM  
**To:** Vandenberg, Courtney <cvandenberg@co.pinellas.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Please send!

Courtney!

Can you please send the following to all the commissioners.

Thanks,  
Steve

Commissioners,

All of you know that I have worked for a long time leading the grass roots efforts to bring county funding to the greater Seminole area. I'm writing to give you more knowledge of Richard Masi who has applied for the open seat on the Greater Seminole Recreation Board. Seminole Junior Warhawks Athletic Association (SJWAA) does lie within the boundaries of the taxing district. In fact, in discussion with Seminole Youth leadership, the district has given SJWAA monies in the past. I do not know the other four candidates for the position, however with the prospect of new and improved complexes in the future, I think placing Mr. Masi on this board would provide a broad coverage of the whole district.

Richard Masi is a central figure in the development of the SJWAA sports complex since the 1970's and 80's. Richard's efforts with the help of a few others helped get SJWAA soccer off the ground and paved the way for the very successful Seminole Strikers Soccer Club. In this time Richard worked with SJWAA baseball, and back then SJWAA ran basketball and football leagues as well. In his time he orchestrated several club wide trips to Mexico for international youth soccer tournaments, and orchestrated hosting hundreds of Mexican families here in Pinellas County. His lifetime of work in youth sports has brought experience and wisdom which can only be developed through decades of putting in the time.

Since the mid 1990's Richard has been the head soccer coach for the Seminole High School boys program. The program has won two state titles and three state runner ups in its history. His 26 years at Seminole High School has seen generations of players come through who all start playing at the local recreation complexes (SYAA, SJWAA, and Seminole Rec). Richard understands how important youth athletics is to developing character in young people, and how youth athletics is beneficial to a safe and healthy community.

Richard's years of experience in this field are unmatched. You will not find someone who has worked harder in the community to help youth sports grow.

Regards,

Steve Siesel

President

SJWAA

[steve@siesel.net](mailto:steve@siesel.net)

727-433-3886