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## SWEET HOME SCHOOLS

# Girls ice hockey team advocated

By Rick Ahrens  
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AMHERST — Although the school year is still young and the annual allocation of district funds is months away, female hockey enthusiasts in the Sweet Home School District have become a vocal constituency.

Parents supporting creation of a girls ice hockey team have been petitioning top decision-makers in the district through telephone calls, letters and appearances at board meetings.

One of those appearances occurred at Tuesday night's study session, where Mary Ellen Kather, a district parent involved in the effort to found the program, showed up to push the issue.

"We've been making a lot of progress in creating interest. We've had meetings at the high school and middle school, and have found 10 girls who are interested and have experience playing," she said. "We're hoping they will have an opportunity to scrimmage to see how well they play together."

Kather said the plan involved creating a joint team with the nearby Amherst school district, which has several interested players, as well.

A league would require a minimum of five teams, and Kather said the Williamsville and Ken-Ton school districts also have expressed a desire to field a team.

Sweet Home School Board President Carol Nowak said any discussion about creating a new athletic team would have to wait until budget talks later this school year.

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