



**Email Testimonial from Quintin Shepherd, Superintendent Linmar Schools, Cedar Rapids IA.**

**Sports World Outreach  
October 25-27, 2016  
Pro Speaker – Michael Morrison (NBA)**

**From:** Quintin Shepherd [<mailto:qshepherd@linmar.k12.ia.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:02 AM  
**To:** Paul Phelan JR.  
**Subject:** RE:

Imagine what it means to literally change the course of a person's life... that is what Sports World has done. Close your eyes and imagine the life of a teenage student who has not connected in a meaningful way with any adult. Imagine not having someone who you can share your dreams with. Can you imagine a teenager who cannot talk with an adult about their greatest fears? Who do they turn to? Where do they go? Any number of kids feel like they are in this situation as they work through those difficult teen years. We recently had Sports World come and visit with our High School students and the remarkable connection this athlete had on our students is beyond words and defies comprehension. As a result of the visit, several students came forward to share personal tragedies and even triumphs in their lives... but that is the story of many and I want you to know the story of just one. For one student in the audience that day, it is my firmly held belief that we stopped what could have been a life ending tragedy. Sports World helped our school find an adult to connect deeply with this student and thus, changed the course of their life. There are not many times where we can say we were able to save a life, but the Sports World program gives us that opportunity! I hope you will support this effort, on behalf of our community and our kids who need us most!