

King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul

MEMORANDUM

- FOR RELEASE -

On March 26, 2019, the Allentown School District was made aware of a federal lawsuit filed by an assistant principal at Harrison Morton Middle School. The Complaint in some 418 paragraphs, makes unsubstantiated and wild allegations that he was retaliated against for expressing concerns about numerous instances of what he claims were mishandling of student investigations and unfair treatment based on his race, which is white. The School District and named administrators have not yet been formally served with the complaint.

The School District and named defendants both current and former district administrators categorically deny the outrageous, reckless and defamatory attacks on their integrity and the actions of the district. Some of the more atrocious allegations cite time periods before the accused administrator was even employed by the School District. Allegations of distributing pornography are a blatant distortion of an incident involving student misconduct in which some video evidence was turned over to the police. The administrator accused never had possession of the video evidence.

In the last several years the Allentown School District has made tremendous strides in programs and processes to enhance diversity and comply with federal and state regulations on sexual and other harassment. The District completely revamped its policies and procedures under the tutelage of the U.S. Department of Justice. New

positions were created and filled to address equity concerns and the reporting of incidents has been vastly improved. Training of personnel on matters of equity and harassment have been stepped up and a safety task force which includes community members has been operating for more than ten years.

The School District will aggressively defend the baseless allegations of this lawsuit and will vindicate the integrity of those administrators so scurrilously attacked.