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Princeton, NJ 08542
May 7, 2018

electronic mail: track@princetonac.org

Patrick Sullivan, President
Board of Education
Princeton Public Schools
25 Valley Road
Princeton, NJ 08540

electronic mail: PatrickSullivan@princetonk12.org

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

I have enclosed a proposed resolution on use of track and field equipment by nonprofit community organizations for the Board of Education to consider.

I have solicited public support in the form of a letter I have asked people to sign. I have enclosed a copy of the letter of support. As of this date, more than fifty people have signed the letter. A majority of signers are Princeton residents. A notable signer is Bob James, president of Friends of Princeton Athletics, honored by having the Princeton High School track named for him.

The signers will be informed of the board's answer, according to whether there are community track and field events which make use of the track and field equipment.

How issue this comes to the Board of Education

I am appealing to the Board of Education from Superintendent Steve Cochrane's default decision by non-response to my letter of April 9. That letter addresses use of track and field equipment by nonprofit community organizations. Policy 9130, bullet 4 mandates the Board of Education to respond to this appeal within forty-five calendar days, that is, not later than June 21, 2018.

There are two main issues here: the process of review, and the substance of the specific issue. Since Stephanie Kennedy and Steve Cochrane have both demonstrated that they have positions. I ask that they not participate in the Board's deliberation. If they have any evidence or argument to offer, I ask that it be in writing, and that I have a fair opportunity to review and respond to their presentations.

The review process

The April 9 letter, addressed to Steve Cochrane, was transmitted by email to Mr. Cochrane, as well as the entire facilities committee of the Board of Education. That letter is enclosed. I maintain the complaint expressed there, and additionally complain about Steve Cochrane's non-response.

It is highly likely – Princeton Public Schools IT people could verify – that the April 9 letter was delivered to Mr. Cochrane or at least one of the board members. Policy 9130 mandates that a board member forward the complaint to Mr. Cochrane. The reason for appeal to Mr. Cochrane was that the attempt to resolve the matter informally failed. Interested parties met at the March 19 facilities committee meeting. After that meeting, Stephanie Kennedy raised a new issue, in email, based on an understanding of Policy 7520 inconsistent with its text.

I ask the Board of Education to take whatever measures are necessary to insure Princeton Public Schools personnel comply with board policy, particularly Policy 9130, going forward.

Use of track and field equipment – Proposed resolution for board to adopt

The specific issue is whether nonprofit community organizations shall be able to use track and field equipment owned by Princeton Public Schools on Princeton Public Schools premises. Adopting the proposed resolution would essentially resolve the matter.

In respect of its content, the resolution is suitable for consideration in the public session. There is nothing in the resolution about the process that led to the present situation. I have done my best to incorporate the concerns that have been expressed.

In my opinion, this situation would have been better addressed if administrators had advised from the outset that they found policy unclear on loan of equipment, and that the proposal would have to go to the board.

Additional documentation

Appended to the proposed resolution is additional documentation on the findings in the resolution. The findings in regard of Princeton High School are all simple observations. I have enclosed a few photographs of the athletic fields.

I have enclosed a copy of Princeton Athletic Club's IRS 501(c)3 determination letter, justifying the findings in regard of Princeton Athletic Club's nonprofit status. Prior to October 2015, Princeton Athletic Club had different 501(c)3 documentation.

Information on the USA Track and Field insurance program is available on the USATF web site *usatf.org*. I have enclosed page 6 of their insurance brochure, containing the remarks on property insurance. The property insurance covers reasonable damage, and then some, including mangled hurdles, broken crossbars, and replacement of the discus cage. The property insurance does not cover wholesale destruction of everything. No outside group insures the turf field, either.

I have enclosed a copy of the invoice for Vertical Adventures Decathlon / Heptathlon meet at Lenape Regional High School and the listing of the meet in the USATF calendar showing event sanctioned in order to verify the claims about that activity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lawren Smithline

Enclosures:

Proposed resolution, with supporting documents

Sample copy of letter of support

Appeal to Superintendent, April 9, with supporting documents