



BRUNSWICK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dear Members of the Brunswick Community:

A lawsuit was filed against the Brunswick School Department and Brunswick Junior High School Principal Wallace in the United States District Court for the district of Maine today alleging failure to appropriately address bullying of a former BJHS student. The suit contains disturbing assertions about how the student was allegedly treated by fellow students, but our thorough investigation has determined that most of these allegations are false and that the school and Mr. Wallace handled them with skill and sensitivity, and as required by the law and our policies. There are events alleged in the complaint that simply did not happen and most importantly, the allegations concerning Mr. Wallace are unfounded and untrue.

BJHS has received local and national attention and recognition in recent years for its efforts in combating bullying and harassment, including being identified as one of the top three schools in the United States with respect to its responsiveness and attention to bullying and harassment, being highlighted as one of Maine WCSH 6's "Schools that Shine", and receiving a grant for its anti-bullying efforts. Mr. Wallace has been – and continues to be – a leader in that effort. He and the administration and staff of not only BJHS but the entire Brunswick School Department take all allegations of bullying and harassment very seriously and address them appropriately when they arise. I want to assure you that your children are safe in our schools and that we remain available to work with you to address any concerns you may have.

With the full backing of the Brunswick School Board, we intend to fight the claims asserted against the School Department and Mr. Wallace. Because of the pending lawsuit, we cannot further discuss this matter in public, but we wanted to assure you that we believe that Brunswick schools continue to be safe and welcoming for all students. We know that litigation is a process that will take some time and while the lawsuit is pending, we urge you not to allow it to distract from the good work that our administrators, teachers, and support staff are doing every day for the children in our community.

Sincerely,

Paul Perzanoski
Superintendent of Schools

c: School Board, Brunswick administrators, Brunswick Police, Town, Press