

News Release
Everett Public Schools



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For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049

Allegations against school principal are baseless, unfounded and harassing

Everett Public Schools investigation determined no evidence of misconduct. District calls latest anonymous allegations false, harassing and defamatory.

Everett Public Schools has become aware that an anonymous letter setting forth baseless allegations against a principal has been sent to the *Herald*. This letter, falsely claiming sexual harassment, may be similar to letters received by the school district earlier this year, which were investigated by the district and an independent attorney and determined to be completely unfounded. The district vigorously denies any misconduct or inappropriate actions by the principal named in the letters.

The district calls the letters false, harassing and defamatory. "We take all allegations of this nature seriously. We responded immediately, and investigated to safeguard the learning and working atmosphere for students and staff. An independent attorney's investigation found absolutely no evidence to substantiate these allegations. The investigator spoke with a number of people who would have been aware of any information or any rumors regarding allegations of this nature," said Superintendent Gary Cohn. "It appears that someone is now perpetuating these false rumors out of spite or malice, and common decency demands that this should not be tolerated."

The district is working with the police with respect to the anonymous source of the harassing letters. The district will consider appropriate legal or disciplinary action against anyone found to be perpetuating these rumors.

The school board has scheduled a special meeting for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14 to "discuss Board-Superintendent communications, and to hold an executive session to receive and evaluate complaints or charges against a public employee, review the performance of a public employee, and discuss litigation or potential litigation with legal counsel representing the district." These are topics Washington state law allows a school board to discuss in executive session without public attendance.

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