



STATEMENT REGARDING OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT

There has been a large amount of misunderstanding and misinformation in the media and in our communities about a complaint filed against the district, alleging a cub scout group had been kicked out of Mountain View Elementary School. We would like to clarify the issue.

1. **The cub scout group in question was not kicked out of the school.** Due to staffing issues encountered by the Boy Scouts of America and the chartering organization, the cub scout group had not met at the school for a considerable time.
2. **The cub scout group was never denied access to the school.** A scouting representative met with the school administration several weeks ago. He said the staffing issues were resolved and the group would like to begin meeting at the school. School administrators expressed concerns about the consistency and quality of the program that had previously been offered, and the principal said he had a concern about how the scout policies conflicted with the district's anti-discrimination policy. However, the scouting representative was told that he and the scouts could set up a contract to use the school building, just like any other community group.
3. The cub scouts and other groups are granted equal access to our schools and allowed to rent space in school buildings. In fact, non-profit groups such as the cub scouts are charged minimum fees for these rentals, and the scouts and other community groups can request that any fees be waived. The rental process is defined publicly in Policy C-4, which is available on the district's website. **All of this information was shared with the scouting representative who visited the school.**
4. Equal Access as cited in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act does not **require** a school to partner with a scouting group. It says groups must be given similar access to public school buildings. In this specific case, the cub scout group was told directly how they could access the building.

“Voluntary sponsorship.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any school, agency, or a school served by an agency to sponsor any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in title 36 of the United States Code (as a patriotic society).”

- Section 9525 (b)(2) - Equal Access to Public School Facilities

We look forward to speaking with the Office of Civil Rights and offering accurate information on the specifics of this complaint.

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