



Huntington Union Free School District

"A Tradition of Excellence since 1657"

James W. Polansky

Superintendent of Schools

August 11, 2015

Mr. A.J. Carter
Huntington Town Hall
100 Main Street
Huntington, New York 11743

Dear Mr. Carter,

This letter follows our conversation regarding the permission you unilaterally provided to several media crews with respect to filming on the campus of the Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School on Monday, August 10. As we discussed after the fact, we can certainly appreciate the desire to highlight the accomplishments of an outstanding young man and his family, but said permission was not yours to give.

We have enjoyed hosting the Project Play program over the past several summers. The campers and staff have treated this building like their summer home, which we genuinely appreciate. Nonetheless, the fact that Town officials elected to invite reporters onto our campus without my or the Board of Education's knowledge or consent is beyond troublesome and simply disrespectful. The fact that media staff were traveling throughout the building indiscriminately on the date in question, taking photographs and recording video, is not only intrusive but a violation of the facility use agreement that exists between the Huntington School District and the Town of Huntington. Furthermore, I don't think you would appreciate our inviting the media to Town Hall without your authorization.

While we have welcomed opportunities to partner with the Town, particularly when it comes to the children and families we serve, it is unfortunate that you had to be reminded, once again, to communicate in advance something as important as media presence. As mentioned, we share your pride in the commitment demonstrated by the featured individual and also did not wish to embarrass the Town. Please note, however, that should this happen again, the media will be directed to leave without hesitation or question.

I trust that you will give this type of situation a second thought moving forward.

Sincerely,

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Board of Education
Supervisor Frank Petrone
Town Council Members
Jo-Ann Raia, Town Clerk

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TOWN CLERK
AUG 11 2015
HUNTINGTON, NY