



# ENGLEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE of the SUPERINTENDENT

274 KNICKERBOCKER ROAD, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631

Phone (201) 862-6247

February 13, 2023

To the Englewood Public School District Community,

Please accept this letter as follow up communication to provide additional information regarding the incident at the Dwight Morrow High School Boys Varsity Basketball game on February 7, 2023.

The close of the Dwight Morrow High School Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys Basketball season is the result of Dwight Morrow High School complying with the current New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) regulations which state disqualified student-athletes cannot participate in the next two competitions and varsity teams with three or more player disqualifications cannot participate in the NJSIAA post-season tournament. The NJSIAA's decision about our season was confirmed in a letter stating:

*"The Dwight Morrow varsity boys basketball team has accumulated three or more player or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct during the 2022-2023 season. In accordance with NJSIAA Specific Sport Regulations Note 4.f – Disqualifications, the team will not be permitted to participate in the NJSIAA post-season tournament."*

To fully understand all events that took place within the game, on the sidelines, and in the stands, we are continuing an active investigation with the Englewood Police Department, the Big North Conference, and the NJSIAA, as well as with the Dumont Public Schools. As information is gathered, it is shared with the appropriate agency. While we know it is hard, we appreciate your patience as we work through the many steps of the investigation. We want to make sure we get this right for all students.

Reports of the incident have called it a "brawl" or "mele," however many of the people who rushed to the court were there to assist and the court was cleared in less than 30 seconds. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many Englewood Public School District staff members, Englewood Police Department staff members, and other adults present at the game who immediately took action to diffuse the situation.

While the season has concluded for our Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys Basketball athletes, we are committed to fostering learning and growth for our student-athletes, our coaches, and the athletic department with the participation of restorative opportunities. We appreciate your support for our students. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer D. Sifuentes, Ed.D.  
Acting Superintendent of Schools  
Englewood Public School District