

Administrative Offices

VanHoose Education Center
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June 2, 2016

Edwin Hensley
Freedom from Religion Foundation Kentucky
P.O. Box 6171
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

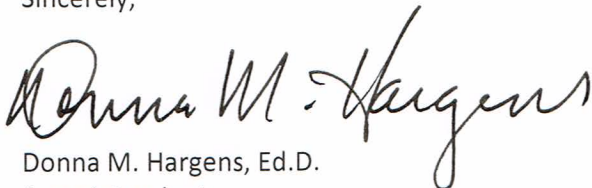
Dear Mr. Hensley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and allowing me the opportunity to respond. Jerry Wyman, JCPS Director of Athletics and Activities, has conveyed appropriate FCA practices with both JCPS middle and high school athletic directors' FCA leadership. While FCA is allowed equal access to assemble in our schools, it is also important that they and school leaders understand our expectations for student-initiated and student-led assembly. In response to your letter, Mr. Wyman reiterated the following items to JCPS athletic directors on June 2, 2016, that will be shared with our middle and high school principals and district leaders:

1. FCA meetings must be separate from team practices and meetings will not to be conducted in lieu of any scheduled practice or meeting. Practice should never be shortened or lengthened to accommodate a FCA meeting.
2. JCPS teams do not have team chaplains and should not use such a designation.
3. FCA meetings on JCPS property must be both student-initiated and student-led activities. While FCA staff may be invited to meetings, these meetings ultimately must be scheduled and run by FCA student members. Like other JCPS clubs, FCA must have a faculty sponsor who helps student leaders with scheduling and accommodations and these sponsors will be reminded of these guidelines.
4. Any student common area (locker room, weight room, dugout, sideline, bench, etc.) that should be available to all students shall not be used for an FCA meeting.
5. All visitors to JCPS campuses will follow proper protocols for visits.

I will continue to monitor this situation closely and share appropriate information with my staff. Thank you for your advocacy for students in Jefferson County Public Schools. If you have additional questions, please contact Jerry Wyman at 502.485.3331 or jerry.wyman@jefferson.kyschools.us.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Hargens, Ed.D.
Superintendent

DMH:scf

c Glenn Baete, Assistant Superintendent
Jerry Wyman, Director, Athletics and Activities