WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of Human Resources

Memorandum

To:

Mr. Grant

Mrs. Nuttall

Board Members

From:

Mark Eberl

Subject: Unfounded Allegations - Russell Gym

Date:

May 2, 2005

At the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, allegations were made in public that the gym at Russell Elementary School was being used by adults and that the students were being restricted in the gym use for the convenience of these adults. Mrs. Deppas has prepared the following report concerning this issue. The gym is a very sought after asset of the Warren County School District but adults are not given preference over children in its use.

Mark Eberl

Human Resources

FROM: Deborah Deppas, Principal 4/2/105

Please find attached copies of the RES gymnasium schedule for January through April 2005. Due to the number of requests for gym utilization, it has been necessary to maintain a weekly/monthly calendar. I hope you will find it helpful.

So far, the adult coaches and scout leaders that have requested use of the gym have had their requests honored to the extent possible. Multiple requests for the same days and practice times during basketball season, specifically, sometimes made scheduling challenging, but still manageable. Additionally, on occasion, coaches have called needing gym time for a specific day or time in a given week because the facility/gym they otherwise used on a regular basis was temporarily not available (i.e. conflict with another sport, playoff schedules, maintenance needs, etc.) I have not always been able to honor those requests if the time conflicted with a previously scheduled team/group.

All times and names indicate when the gym has been reserved and by whom. The only reservation that has ever been scheduled and not related to a children' event or sport's activity has been by one group of dads/men that play basketball together. Occasionally, this same group does play a father/son mixed game, but for the most part meet and play basketball with each other. They have scheduled their games on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30. It should be noted that I do not allow reservations for gym time with elementary children after 7:00PM that are not finished by 8:00PM due to lateness of hour on a school night. Therefore, the time the men have requested has not compromised student needs. Further, this same adult group was informed in advance that if a student/parent group needed the gym at the men's scheduled time, the men's time would be forfeited for student use. That has happened on occasion with no incident or question.

Please note that the gym is open for use throughout the school week, beginning at 3:30PM. The 3:30 time is not popular with most coaches because of their own personal work schedules. Therefore, coaches compete for the "premium" times between 5:00 and 7:30 PM. It's impossible to accommodate every request; yet, no individual to date has complained to me formally. On the contrary, students have maintained appropriate behavior, coaches, scout leaders and parent groups have presented as respectful and appreciative of the fine opportunity our new school facility has to offer.

Please know that I am available to discuss the gymnasium utilization at Russell School further and welcome related questions or concerns.







