

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 5:35 PM
To: Michael Hodges
Cc: shherring@bcswan.net; burs@bcswan.net; jmastin@bcswan.net; jwalls@bcswan.net; jamwoods@bcswan.net; Steven Sullivan; sbarger@bcswan.net; rmoftitt@bcswan.net; Morgan Farroll; Kyle Cross; Cheers, Darrell; mewwhite@bcswan.net; joates@bcswan.net; president@nhcnaacp.org; Orangel Daniels
Subject: Re: Racial Slurs Directed at North Brunswick Varsity Basketball Team by Attendees at South Brunswick High School on Tues, 07-Feb-2023
Attachments: Code of Conduct One-Page 22-23 English (1).pdf

Mr. Hodges,

Thank you for providing an update regarding this matter.

I want to highlight that during the game where NBHS played at Ashley on Thursday, 09-Feb-23, the NBHS athletic director was present & did absolutely nothing to ensure the full safety of these students. In addition, please refer to the subject line, as well as the first paragraph in my initial communication. It confirms the date this incident took place.

To address your questions below, I cannot confirm the student section which made these gruesome comments, nor am I able to confirm the names and/or faces of the students. I would encourage NBHS to conduct a thorough investigation and supply you with this information. In reference to the upcoming BCS athletic director meeting, when does this take place? I would appreciate an update following this meeting to understand the topics discussed and proposed plans to ensure the safety of **all** students.

It is true; there is a policy regarding harassment. What occurs when the policy is breached? Also, I would like to find an escalation pathway for these extremely sensitive and dangerous occurrences & it must include the parents as the first point of escalation. It would be beneficial to understand the repercussions involved, especially for repeat offenders. I see the code of conduct displays penalties for breaking violations, but; I do not see code #4329/7311 with such information. Why is that? I have attached the document for your reference.

I look forward to receiving an update in reference to my questions, as well the upcoming meeting.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 2:33 PM Michael Hodges <mhodes@bcswan.net> wrote:
[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

This is the first we have heard of this. I have spoken to all SBHS administrators and our two SBHS SRO's and no one reported this to any of us during or after the games last Tuesday.

Regarding safety of visiting teams, we have our school administrators at the games along with Brunswick County Deputies (at the NBHS game, we had 8 deputies). Also, for this game, Dr. Sullivan, NBHS Principal, and the NBHS Athletic Director were in attendance. All these groups work together to "manage" the game and keep order. At halftime and when the game is over, we make sure the visiting team gets to their locker room and to the bus safely. We do this for every game, regardless of who we are playing.

We had five administrators at the NBHS game and I, along with two deputies, stood close to our student section during most of the boys varsity game. During that time, I did not hear any negative comments coming from the students. Do you know during which game this took place? Do you know in which section the students were sitting who made comments? Do you know which student(s) said these things?

When it comes to policy, as you alluded to, our School Board has policies in place already that address harassment.

Today, my Athletic Director and I spoke with the Athletic Director and Principal of NBHS. We will continue to work with them and WBHS's Principal and Athletic Director to create a respectful environment for all students when they are playing or in attendance at our athletic events. Dr. Sullivan and I plan to participate in the upcoming BCS Athletic Director's meeting to discuss ideas with them that can be implemented to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

Thank you.

On Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 10:49 AM [REDACTED] > wrote:
Dear Principal Hodges:

I hope this communication finds you well.

I, [REDACTED], am the parent of one member and the aunt of another member of the North Brunswick High School (NBHS), Leland, NC, varsity basketball team. NBHS played South Brunswick on Tuesday, 07-Feb-2023. During the game, the NBHS varsity team experienced racism on behalf of students enrolled at South Brunswick. The varsity team members were being referred to as "monkeys" throughout the game.

On Thursday, 09-Feb-2023, the NBHS team played at Ashley High School in Wilmington, NC, and again experienced racism as they were being referred to as the "N" word.

In both instances, these racist references are abusive, threatening, dehumanizing, uncivilized, and unacceptable; they must cease immediately!

South Brunswick clearly presents on its website that this is not its mission and the Brunswick County code # 4329/7311 condemns such behavior. However, the environment South presented was not safe for the Black students who participated in this game, and I won't stand for these black athletes to be subjected to such racism and violate the law.

Were you aware that this happened? What measures are in place to ensure the safety of students that engage in sports from visiting schools? I hope you are aware of how sweltering the temperature is for Black males who face systemic racism in America. Racism is on the rise in this country as you well know; black males are being murdered by police officers who oftentimes go unpunished. We have had a racist president of this country who fueled a January 6th insurrection and have a justice department that acts as if it can't prosecute this criminal. My point is this: There is a vicious attack on black males in America and too many of them feel unsafe and do not return to their homes because our justice system favors their assailants and makes their assailants feel they can continue harassing and intimidating black youth and get away with it. Not so in 2023 and beyond!

I am asking you to conduct a thorough investigation of what occurred at your school and provide an update on how you will address this problem at South Brunswick and to implement a policy to address any future problems, share this policy with your staff, and inform your supervisor and the principal of the guest school regarding your actions. Your

policy should also be shared with the Brunswick County Superintendent and Board of Education. Everyone needs to be on one accord and follow through before an unthinkable occurs. Being proactive and not reactive is the key. If you are not the authority figure to implement a policy, then I will contact the next persons in the chain of command because this county needs a policy; and these athletes need to feel safe or schools need to be banned from sports if the name-calling does not cease.

Since this is now the 2nd encounter of racism that the NBHS team has experienced within a week, I have copied the Brunswick County Board of administrators, the New Hanover County Board of administrator, the news media, the NAACP, and other parties to ensure this issue is addressed immediately and effectively. All parties must unite and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of **ALL** students. Some Americans today do not see how subhuman and embarrassing they are, but as concerned citizens we must continue to fight for a better tomorrow. If not, we will perish together!

I appreciate your immediate action to investigate, get this problem under control, and provide an update on next steps.

Kind regards



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Chip Hodges, Principal
South Brunswick High School

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