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OF COUNSEL
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September 29, 2006

Dr. Sandra Hennon, Superintendent
Laurel School District
2497 Harlansburg Road
New Castle, PA 16101

**Re: Laurel Soccer Club and the inclusion
of soccer as a varsity program at
Laurel**

Dear Doctor Hennon:

I have been retained by Vincent Bejgrowicz, president of the Laurel Soccer Club, concerning his written request to you dated September 19, 2006, to address the school board at its October 10, 2006 public meeting. I am told that your reply to his request related the pronouncement of the board president, Mr. Redfoot, that the board has heard all they need on the subject of soccer, and that neither Mr. Bejgrowicz nor any one else will be permitted to address the board any further on the matter.

Mr. Bejgrowicz is a resident, voter, taxpayer and parent of students in your school district. He and others similarly situated enjoy a right, under Article 1, §20 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania . . . "to apply to those invested with the powers of government for address of grievances or other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance."

This right of petition by address to your board is codified within the provisions of 65 Pa. C.S.A. §710, by which Mr. Bejgrowicz and other parents must be provided with a "reasonable opportunity at each advertised regular meeting and advertised special meeting . . . to comment on matters of concern. . . which are or may be before the board . . ."

The extracurricular sports program of your school district is always a matter of concern upon which your residents, taxpayers, parents and students may peaceably address the board of school directors. You may regulate the time, manner and place, but your board is not the final arbiter as to the subject matter which it will or will not allow your citizens to address.

I am sure that King George III instructed his prime minister to take no further petitions from Boston about that little matter of a tax on tea. History is a wise instructor.

I suggest that you advise your board president that he may not cut off further discourse on this matter, which is of such concern among so many of your parents and students. My services are at the pleasure of those parents and students if your board persists in cutting off the public discourse. 42 U.S.C. §1983 gives them a cause of action either in state or in federal court.

Very truly yours,


Jonathan Solomon, Esq.

JS/mm

c: Vincent Bejgrowicz