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Superintendent Alan Johnson
Woodland Hills School District
531 Jones Avenue
North Braddock, PA 15104

IN RE: Woodland Hills High School Student J.H.

Superintendent Johnson,

As you know, an attorney for a 14-year-old student ("student") at Woodland Hills High School disclosed that the student had surreptitiously intercepted a portion of an oral communication between the student and the high school principal.

The interception took place on April 8, 2016 and stems from serious disciplinary matters involving the student which occurred on April 5, 2016.

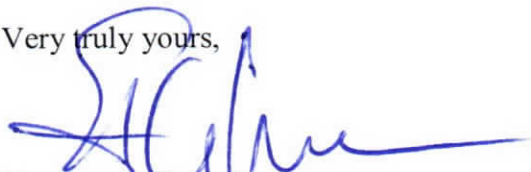
The interception and disclosure have criminal implications and required review; also, although the recording itself cannot be used in any court proceedings, it did present issues involving the high school principal which likewise required review.

Statutes regulating juvenile proceedings restrict comment. However, based on the student's attorney's representations, the student's record and your duties to the parents and students of the school district, I can relate that juvenile authorities will be provided the student's history, to determine whether an alternative educational placement is in the best interest of the student. Also, since juvenile court already has jurisdiction over this student on a separate unrelated matter, no further action will be taken on the April 8, 2016 matter.

Finally, the principal's communication with this student on April 8, 2016 is inappropriate and arguably threatening. However, the Churchill police department relates no history or pattern of complaints against the principal by any Woodland Hills students or their parents. Further, the nature of the April 5, 2016 disciplinary circumstances, the obvious difficulty the administration has had in attempting to have the student conform with the school rules, and the lack of clarity as to the provocation of the principal's communication do not support addressing the principal's conduct as a criminal matter.

That being said, I fully expect, having worked with the school board and your administration for a long time, that the principal's conduct will be addressed appropriately.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Zappala, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.
Allegheny County District Attorney

Cc: Inner office distribution
Chief Allen Park, Churchill Police