

# PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office  
P.O. Box 68  
17 School Street  
Peru, New York 12972  
(518) 643-6000 Phone  
(518) 643-2043 Fax

Dr. Thomas Palmer  
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Randolph B. Sapp  
School Business Administrator

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May 2, 2019

Dear School Community,

The Press-Republican requested information from Peru Central School District and published today's article. I would like you to know the District learned about the offensive team names used in the Physical Education Class's volleyball tournament just before spring break. The District, once learning of the brackets, immediately removed them from the gym and an investigation into the incident was conducted. It was a busy time with the Active Shooter Drill and Spring Break was upon us.

I want our school community to know that the use of harassing and discriminatory language does not represent the District's values. Our staff is committed to equal opportunity and inclusivity and demonstrate these commitments in their classrooms. We honor and value differences in our community and believe in a tolerant environment where all people are respected.

The District is taking steps to address the decisions made by some faculty members and helping our students learn from this unfortunate event. The District will grow from this incident and continue to strengthen as a District for our students to learn in and our staff to teach in.

This occurrence violated our Core Beliefs of the New Strategic Plan created by students, staff, administrators and the Board of Education.

## **CORE BELIEFS**

- Students are our first priority.
- All students can learn and we provide for each student's individual needs.
- High quality learning is rigorous and relevant.
- We embrace innovation and strive for continuous improvement.
- We bring talent, passion and integrity to our school every day.
- We value inclusivity and hold diversity and respect paramount.
- We build powerful trusting relationships where teamwork and collaboration are valued
- We commit to our community's safety and security.

At Peru, we never give up!

Please understand the District has a legal responsibility not to comment on staff or student discipline.

We will continue to hold our staff and students to a high standard of conduct and will work through the process to make the District stronger. We will continue to emphasize and work hard to practice the Core Beliefs of our District Strategic Plan and strengthen our District to produce high quality citizens with a universal awareness.

Sincerely,

Thomas Palmer Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools