

April 26, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO PHarney01@verizon.net ; HAND DELIVERY;
CERTIFIED MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Ms. Pam Harney
11 Calf Pasture Lane
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

Dear Ms. Harney:

This law firm is general counsel to the Bedford Central School District.

As a member of the community, you have the right to share your views with the Board of Education. That right includes expressing your views on district policies and practices. Public participation, however, requires that those speaking at board meetings and those who are present on school district property must comply with district policies, including but not limited to Policy # 3413 and the district's Code of Conduct.

On April 20, 2022, you repeatedly disrupted the Board of Education meeting, using loud and offensive language, and then you proceeded to initiate a verbal confrontation with the Superintendent of Schools in the parking lot after the meeting. Furthermore, you verbally confronted a student in the parking lot after the meeting, resulting in that student feeling unsafe. Due to your behavior, in the future, student participants in Board meetings will be escorted to their cars by school security or law enforcement.

Members of the Board of Education have filed complaints against you pursuant to Policy # 3413.

Policy # 3413 – Civility, sets forth the following requirements:

“Parents, students, visitors, and members of the public are expected to treat each other and District Representatives with courtesy, civility, and respect.” Individuals who display the following behaviors are in violation of the civility policy:

1. Disrupts or threatens to disrupt school/office operations or Board of Education meetings;
2. Uses loud and/or offensive language;
3. Is verbally or physically intimidating or bullying;
4. Harasses staff and/or others through confrontations or the like;
5. Threatens the health and safety of students or District Representatives

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In accordance with Policy # 3413, “the Superintendent of Schools shall have the authority to ban an excessively disruptive individual from school property indefinitely or for a specific period of time, limit the individual’s ability to communicate directly with members of staff or administration and/or require visits by the individual to be supervised by the School Resource Officer or other law enforcement officials indefinitely or for a period of time.”

The district’s Code of Conduct provides that: “All persons on school property or attending a school function must conduct themselves in a safe, respectful, and orderly manner.”

Your actions on April 20, 2022 violated the district’s policies.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, you are advised that, effective immediately, you are not permitted to physically attend public school board meetings or community advisory committee meetings on school district property through June 30, 2022. You may attend public school board meetings electronically, by viewing the school board meetings via livestream, and you may electronically participate in the school board meetings in the same manner as other members of the public who are attending the school board meetings electronically. You are not permitted to attend in-person community advisory committee meetings on school district property through June 30, 2022.

You will be permitted to enter the school buildings and school district property for all other authorized purposes, including but not limited to, attending student performances that are open to the public and voting at the annual school district budget vote/school board election. You may also continue to communicate in writing with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

In the event that you fail to comply with the directives set forth in this letter, or violate the district’s policies in any other way now or in the future, you may be subject to penalties including but not limited to revoking your access to school district property.

This letter is without prejudice to any additional remedies which may be pursued, and the school district reserves all rights with respect to addressing your inappropriate behavior to date.

Sincerely,



Candace J. Gomez, Esq.

cc: New York State Commissioner of Education
Board of Education, Bedford Central School District
Dr. Joel Adelberg, Superintendent of Schools, Bedford Central School District