

April 18, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to share that the District has completed its investigation of events that occurred during the baseball team's spring break trip to Florida. I would like to acknowledge the cooperation and candor of our student athletes and coaches. As a result of our investigation, for various reasons, three of the four coaches are leaving the program, effective immediately. Assistant volunteer coach Mark Roche was invited to return but declined; we respect his decision and thank him for his years of service to the program.

When atypical events like these occur, it is important that we not only learn from them, but also keep them in perspective. Our coaches made a difficult choice to leave the program; however, to the extent there were lapses in judgment, those errors do not erase their prior contributions to our District. We expect our coaches to exemplify the same high standards of conduct demanded of our student athletes. The coaches' individual decisions to depart and where applicable, accept responsibility for conduct, is another life lesson they leave our student athletes and our District. Going forward, Athletic Director Renee Sadler has assembled an interim coaching staff who will serve through the end of the season.

As I have said all along, Holt Public Schools has very high expectations for all of our employees. Each employee is expected to exemplify the best standards of behavior and conduct at all times in the classroom, on the playing field, in the community, and while on school-sponsored trips.

Throughout this process, our student athletes have been compassionate, responsible and honest; we could not be more proud of their actions on the trip. I ask that we honor them and the decisions of our departing coaches by looking, not backward, but forward to completing the season and the school year with dedication and honor.

Sincerely,



David G. Hornak, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Holt Public Schools