

Chairman Huebert and members of the House Education Committee,

In June of 2017 we received a letter from a group called the “Freedom from Religion Foundation” accusing us of allowing coach led prayers following games. They specifically cited a basketball game played in January of 2017. They had a picture of our players kneeling in a circle at mid-court with the players from the other team. Our coaches were standing behind the players with their hands on the players’ backs and heads bowed.

They demanded we commence an immediate investigation into the event and told us we had committed a violation a “serious and flagrant violation of the First Amendment”. They also wanted us to inform them of actions we took to remedy the situation.

I contacted legal counsel at the Kansas Association of School Boards and they helped me draft a letter of response. In the letter we informed the FFRF that all prayers at the conclusion of our games are completely instigated and led by the players, never the coaches.

We sent the letter of response to FFRF in July of 2017 and have never heard from them again.

Thank you,

Dave Hale, Superintendent/Principle
USD 242 Weskan Schools