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Superintendent for Schools*

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**Superintendent's Proposal to Board of Education**

Today, Eastchester Athletics stands at a crossroads.

Within the strict borders of a duly authorized investigation a coach's renewal was not to be granted. Serious complaints have been received. Credible witnesses were interviewed. A neutral third-party attorney issued a report documenting failure to comply with district policies, athletic handbook requirements, and Eastchester's code of conduct.

But as we stand at the water's edge of a non-renewal for a varsity coach, the Eastchester community feels a deep sense of unease, a palpable sense of frustration. Has justice been fully served? Are we truly a stronger district today than yesterday?

As your Superintendent, I would respectfully submit: No.

Here today, we must pause, we must reflect, we must seize the moment. We must convert this challenge into a unique learning moment for all Eastchester.

I believe there is a pathway to keeping Coach DiCarlo with the Eastchester family. I recommend the Board offer him the Varsity Basketball coach position pending his acceptance of specific measures. We have met with Coach DiCarlo and he has acknowledged mistakes were made and apologizes for any derogatory or inappropriate language that may have been used towards any students. For reasons of confidentiality, we will not comment further, other than to state that we are satisfied that Coach DiCarlo has met, and will continue to meet, the conditions we have laid down in order for him to return to his coaching position. For the record I re-emphasize the District's position that appropriate standards of conduct by all coaches outside the school day apply equally to standards of conduct expected from students and staff within the academic day.

In the great clockwork of the universe, we are a proud people made with feet of clay. Standing tall accomplishes great feats. But in the end, it is our fragility, weakness and failures that bind us together. Thus, the story of redemption.

If the Board extends appointment to Fred as Varsity Basketball coach, then I am convinced the Eagle soars again, higher, faster, and prouder.

Thank you.