



Official Board of Education Statement January 14, 2016:

"The facts of any issue are important to understand. The following facts are undeniably true.

Since Coach Stephen Ernst had a series of technical fouls in games in the past, and our coach must also act as a role model to young people in our community, the school district administration rightfully placed Coach Ernst on an Individual Development Plan to assist him in the correction of his behavior. This action has been taken with a variety of school district employees if or when their behavior requires corrective action. It is the appropriate and right thing to do.

Coach Ernst submitted his resignation to the school district dated January 11, 2016. The ENTIRE resignation letter from Coach Ernst **states as follows:**

"Please accept this as my letter of resignation due to health reasons. I no longer wish to continue coaching at Charlotte, as I focus on my resurgence of continual migraines. Thank you for the opportunity. Best of luck. Signed Stephen Ernst."

The decision to leave his coaching position in Charlotte was Coach Ernst's decision, and his decision alone.

As a Board of Education, it's good to see any coach and our athletes enjoy the support of the community. But nobody did anything wrong here - and it is deeply troubling and disturbing when expressions of support quickly turn into threats against the school district and our employees and their families.

Those threats have been referred to the police and are now under investigation. If any crime has or will be committed in the future, the Board of Education hopes the individual will be properly prosecuted.

This is a very sad moment in the history of our school district in many ways. We lost a basketball coach. Administrators have been threatened. And the new President of the Board of Education has resigned.

There will be no more resignations and nobody else will leave or be fired related to this matter. We hope this is the END to this dramatic episode. Threats of any kind of violence or intimidation MUST STOP NOW.

The vision of Charlotte Public Schools is to create a school district that develops and delivers a culture of academic excellence, opportunities and success for all with community ownership, engagement and accountability and to achieve success with zest, pride, passion and satisfaction for all we do. Let's keep our focus on the big picture here and end this sad chapter in school district history and all move forward together."