

Incident: Unscheduled student appearance at WIAA State Ensemble/Solo Contest

Location: Central Washington University

Date of incident: April 24th-25th 2015

Date of information provided to school specifically principal Matt Johnson: April 27th 2015

Source of information for the following: Eric Smedsrud and Sam Ormson, music teachers at MVHS

Context:

Mountain View had roughly 20 students qualify for the state Ensemble/Solo band contest that took place in Ellensburg, WA at CWU. Students were transported via bus with band teacher Eric Smedsrud to the hotel for a one night stay on Thursday, April 23rd. The ensemble took place on Friday April 24th. Students who also qualified for the solo remained in Ellensburg with their families. Band teacher Sam Ormson followed bus to Ellensburg in a rental car. He stayed for entire contest to observe and supervise solo participants on Saturday the 25th. Eric Smedsrud returned with band students via bus on Friday, only staying one night in hotel, with those who only participated in ensemble contest. Both teachers and all participants stayed in hotel together in Ellensburg Thursday the 24th.

MVHS Principal was informed of incident by Eric S. and Sam after the trip

Incident Details given to Matt Johnson: As the teachers and student participants arrived and checked into the hotel late Thursday night (around 10:00pm) a student who was not a participant in the contest arrived in the hotel lobby. The student's name was 1a a senior at MV who was a member of the band and involved in the leadership of the band as a Drum major. She had traveled to Ellensburg with the family of a contest participant, the Kadmas family. Her appearance was surprising to the students and teacher Sam Ormson. Eric Smedsrud had the duty of organizing which students attended trip and took care of reservations at hotel. It was clearly communicated to all students that only qualified participants of the contest were to attend event, ride the bus, and stay in the hotel. 1a arrived hoping to stay with group. Sam Ormson questioned Eric about this confusion. Eric stated he did not know why she felt she could stay with group. Sam Ormson called 1a's parents to inform them she was in Ellensburg, 1a's parents were aware. Because student did not have permission form to stay with group he received verbal permission and all necessary emergency information for 1a. As a bed was available in one of the rooms reserved, 1a was allowed to stay the night with the band.

At some point later, Eric and Sam were discussing the incident further in the hotel hallway as they walked around doing room checks of the students. In the hallway, Sam asked Eric how this happened that 1a thought she could come on trip. Eric claimed he did not know. Somehow during the conversation, it appeared some students overheard the teachers discussing the issue.

In his description to me, Eric said he understood some students texted others claiming Eric wanted 1a on trip. It is unclear why students had this interpretation of the conversation but it created a small fervor among the students with inappropriate claims about the presence of 1a at the hotel. Eric was made aware of the texts by students. The next morning he spoke to students about the inappropriateness of the claims that insinuated an unprofessional action by Eric. Sam questioned students afterwards and got the feeling students understood their claims were inaccurate.

The next Monday Eric informed me in my office of the events, he claimed he was communicating to both students and parents why the confusion had happened and the policy of attendance had not been followed by 1a.

Sam Ormson also followed up with Don Nelson, manager of fine arts, to fill him in on the events of the trip.

Following Eric and Sam informing the school of the incident there was no more questions, claims, or inquiries by anyone about the incident that the school is aware of.

In summary, the school felt Eric and Sam handled the situation well and did not take any further action. Main concern was that this would create rumors of some type of inappropriate relationship between the student and Eric Smedsrud. School did not receive information from students or parents that this occurred. Additionally, there was no evidence of any premeditated or intentionally inappropriate action by Mr. Smedsrud, it was all insinuated by perceptions of students based on bits of information. School's plan moving forward to monitor any further actions or situations that would create a pattern for concern and react accordingly if so. For the remainder of the year, there was none and therefore no reason for action on the part of the school.