

# GREENBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 7

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Josephine N. Moffett  
Superintendent of Schools

March 4, 2005

Mr. & Mrs. Nirmal Singh  
65 Yale Road  
Hartsdale, New York 10530

Re Amandeep Singh

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Singh:

This letter is written as a follow-up to the meeting held on February 16, 2005 regarding your son, Amandeep. As you will recall, the Interim Principal of Woodlands High School, Mr. Michael Chambliss, had requested that I convene a Superintendent's Hearing in accordance with §3214 of the Education Law to determine whether your son was guilty of being in possession of a weapon. See Notice of Hearing letter dated February 8, 2005. A hearing was scheduled for February 16, 2005 before the designated Hearing Officer, Dr. Harold A. Coles. Dr. Coles was to act in my stead, hold a hearing, and make recommendations with regard to guilt or innocence and, if appropriate, a penalty. Prior to the commencement of the hearing, you had forwarded a letter to me dated February 11, 2005 indicating that what Amandeep had in his possession was a religiously required element, that being a kirpan. You explained that Amandeep is a practicing member of the Sikh religion. As such, he is required to wear a kirpan as one of the commandments of this religion.

Prior to the commencement of the hearing, I am informed that discussions were held between Amandeep, his family and representatives, and representatives of the District, including counsel. An attempt was made to balance Amandeep's religious interests with the interests of the School District in maintaining a safe environment for all students. During the course of these discussions, a resolution was reached whereby Amandeep would be permitted to attend school wearing a smaller kirpan of approximately 2" in length. This kirpan would be secured and concealed under Amandeep's clothing. Further, the kirpan would be securely fastened into a cloth pouch. The kirpan and the pouch would be worn under Amandeep's clothing so that it would not be visible. Under no circumstances is the kirpan to be revealed or taken out

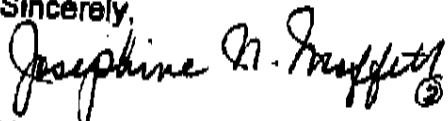
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of the pouch on school property or at any school-sponsored function and/or functions that the school participates in. There was further agreement that either the School Resource Officer, or in his/her absence the High School Principal, would be permitted to make reasonable inspections to confirm that these conditions are being adhered to. Any such monitoring will be done in a private and discreet manner that will not disrupt Amandeep's learning experience. If any of the above conditions are violated, Amandeep's ability of wearing his kirpan may be suspended. This agreement shall be in effect for the remainder of Amandeep's enrollment in this school district.

I am writing to inform you that I concur with the terms set forth above and hereby impose these terms based upon the resolution reached at the meeting on the 16th. I am prepared to immediately expunge Amandeep's student record so as to reflect the imposition of no discipline as a result of this incident. As a result, both Mr. Chambless' discipline as well as the request for a hearing will be expunged. I am taking this measure in reliance upon information provided to me that the above arrangement is acceptable to you and your son and that you have agreed to and do waive any claims against the District with regard to this incident. If I am mistaken in this regard, please notify me immediately. Otherwise, I will direct that Amandeep's student record be appropriately and immediately expunged.

I appreciate your efforts and those of your representatives in attempting to resolve this difficult issue.

Sincerely,



Ms. Josephine Moffett, Superintendent of Schools

Copies to Dr. Coles, Mr. Chambless, Mr. Washington