

Coaches fired for not working during the strike

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By Christian Menno

Staff writer

Two Neshaminy school district basketball coaches were fired for not showing up to practice during a teachers' strike, according to officials.

Neshaminy High School Principal Rob McGee confirmed on Wednesday that the coaches were sent letters last week informing them of their termination.

McGee declined to name the coaches. However, sources told the newspaper ninth-grade coach Bryan McGinty and varsity assistant coach Russ Felger were let go.

McGee did say that neither coach is a teacher; however, others have said both coaches are married to members of the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers.

"I took no pleasure in having to do this," McGee said, adding that both coaches have already been replaced. "Their coaching skills were assets to Neshaminy High School and their ability to work with young adolescents was outstanding. Unfortunately they chose not to come to work. We had to keep our sports programs moving forward."

McGee would not comment on any possible ties the coaches might have to the striking teachers, but said it appears they "honored the picket line and other commitments than coaching their sport.

"I can respect that," McGee added, "but we have to move forward and fill those holes. The kids deserve a full season."

While the district cannot terminate absent coaches who are also teachers during a strike, coaches who come from outside the district staff are required to continue instruction.

McGee, who has filled in as the coach of the bowling team while the regular coach was on the picket line, said he was not clear if the school board would eventually have to sign off on the firing.

Board President Ritchie Webb said Wednesday that he was aware of the situation but would not comment further as it was a personnel issue.

The newspaper was unsuccessful in reaching NFT officials for comment Wednesday.

Teachers began the strike Jan. 9 but have informed the district they will return to class Friday.

An NFT official said, "Whether it's true or not, as policy, we do not comment on personnel matters."

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