

Ms. Kathleem Pollina,
Local Instructional Supervisor;
Regarding:
Mr. Anthony Rotunno
Principal, JFK HS
99 Terrace View ave
Bronx, New York 10463

February 10, 2006

Dear Ms. Pollina,

This letter is in response to Mr. Rotunno's January 10, 2006 letter summarizing the events of October 2005. After listing certain events, Mr. Rotunno claims that my "actions constitute conduct unbecoming of a teacher". He also claims that I refused to obey a directive to report to my new assignment at Courtlandt avenue. In addition, he claims that I sent an email to staff members and students containing "inflammatory information".

As an american citizen, I am at liberty to express my first amendment right to free speech. This is such too, for the staff and students at John F. Kennedy High school. It is also our right to peacefully assemble.

My summary of the events in October 2005 are as follows:

On October 26, 2005, I was forcibly handed a letter by Mr. Rotunno; he slammed a door against me when I attempted to exit from the principal's office. I was then escorted form the building. The letter was from you, Ms. Pollina, informing me of my 're-assignment' and directing me to report to an office at One Fordham Plaza. After reporting there, I was given papers informing me to report to 501 Courtlandt avenue. I have spent my school working hours at that location since then.

I filed for and received 6 parade permits for 3 days; October 26, 27 and 28, 2005, at locations nearby John F. Kennedy High School. These police approved permits sanctioned the assembly of large number of people.

I was arrested by JFK HS security officers as I stood outside on the sidewalk; a considerable distance from the fourth floor entrance to the school; and in possession of the parade permits. The arrest was illegal; and was made at the direction of Mr. Rotunno. I will be defending against these trumped up charges in Bronx criminal court.

I sent an email message to certain JFK UFT members upon my release; informing them of my status and reporting on the incidents of the previous days. I believe that the only reason that Mr. Rotunno might find my email message to contain "inflammatory information" is because my message stated truths; which implicated him.

I feel that my behavior in no way is “unbecoming of a teacher”. I do however, believe that Mr. Rotunno’s conduct is unbecoming of a principal.

Clearly, these letters are an attempt on his part to validate “charges that could lead to” my “termination”. I have done nothing wrong. My removal from the school has been a disservice to my students, the teachers and the parents of John F. Kennedy High School.

Please forward this response to Mr. Rotunno so that, as per union contract, it will be attached to his ‘October Summary of Events’ letter, dated January 10, 2006; if this letter is to be placed in my employment file.

Sincerely,

Natalie Williams

Sincerely,

Ms. Natalie Williams