NORTH WEST HENDRICKS SCHOOL CORPORATION

104 N. Church St. P.O. Box 70 Lizton, IN 46149-0070

(317) 994-4100 Fax (317) 994-5963

M.Scott Syverson Interim Superintendent

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Donna Petraits, Communications Consultant dkpetraits@gmail.com 317-748-1125

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North West Hendricks Responds to Stolen Video Broadcast on WRTV6

WRTV6 chose to broadcast stolen surveillance video from North West Hendricks School Corporation, which raises significant legal and ethical concerns. This video, depicting a NWHSC student, was confiscated by a part-time employee and disclosed in violation of federal and state law. Broadcasting this video potentially compromises an ongoing criminal case, violates federal student privacy laws, and exploits a young woman.

NWHSC abides by all federal and state laws protecting student privacy, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and will continue to do so. NWHSC has been and will continue to cooperate fully with law enforcement and the Hendricks County prosecutor to assure justice is served in a court of law and not the court of public opinion.

Because many will conflate the two items, NWHSC also addresses former employee David Pyatt. Mr. Pyatt was a part-time attendance secretary and at-will employee. He was not a teacher. At-will employees may be discharged at any time with or without cause; however, NWHSC had extensive cause to discharge Mr. Pyatt. The basis for his discharge includes multiple incidents over the school year of insubordination, unprofessionalism, and disruptive behavior in violation of board policy, staff handbook, and federal law. We will respect Mr. Pyatt's privacy and not discuss the numerous reasons for his discharge further, fully anticipating that rumor, misinformation, and speculation will abound.

At North West Hendricks we are committed to protecting student privacy, improving our practices, and providing the best education possible for our students. Unlike WRTV6, the district will never exploit student privacy or stolen property to fulfill a one-sided narrative. NWHSC will allow the multiple legal processes in action to hold individuals accountable.

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