



Platte County School District #1

Dennis Fischer, Superintendent
Chugwater / Glendo / Wheatland

1350 Oak Street, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201
Phone 307/322-3175 /FAX 322-2084



December 17, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in response to a complaint your organization received regarding our “unlawful ban on student prayer at Glendo High School.”


The initial actions of our principal and my response based on that information was to restrict student led prayer. The morning after I had spoken with Pastor Roark I had a chance to discuss the matter with Mandy Engling, who was present in the lunch room when the students collected together to pray. She gave a different and much more detailed account of the situation which I consider to be fact.

I told Ms. Engling that I could certainly abide by the decision of our attorney in this matter and consulted him, though it was clear from Ms. Engling’s details on the matter that this activity certainly falls within the rights afforded students under the Equal Access Act.

Our attorney advised me that yes, the students did not violate the Equal Access Act and I alerted Principal Twiford of this decision and to let the students know that they can pray before meals in the manner they had in the incident in question. The students have since prayed at least once in this manner and will continue to be allowed to do so as long as it falls inside the guidelines of the Equal Access Act.

We have discussed this matter in detail at a board work session with the school board and our administrative staff in December. We have also discussed the incident and the Equal Access Act with all district principals at an administrative meeting in December. I feel our staff and district have a better understanding of student’s rights regarding prayer and how to handle future incidents and consider this incident closed.

Sincerely,


Dennis Fischer, Superintendent
Platte County School District #1



The State of Wyoming provides Hathaway Merit and Need Scholarships to Wyoming students attending the University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges. Every Wyoming student who meets the requirements can earn a Hathaway Scholarship. Contact your school counselor for more information.