

**From:** mwiggin@socalprofessionals.org  
**Subject: Hailee Wiggins-Ketchum harrassment**  
**Date:** March 4, 2009 2:43:36 PM PST  
**To:** jhubbard@nmusd.us  
**Cc:** keketchum@ucdavis.edu

Dear Superintendent Hubbard,

We are writing on behalf of our daughter, Hailee (Hail) Wiggins-Ketchum, a senior at Corona del Mar High School. As correspondence we previously sent to you on February 20, 2009 (attached) explains, Hail has been subjected to sexual harassment and continuing threats by male students at Corona del Mar High School. This harassment has included the January 23, 2009 posting of an appalling video on Facebook (an online social networking site). The video, which depicts [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was posted to the Facebook page of another classmate, [REDACTED] and could be viewed by the hundreds of people listed as his Facebook friends and more than a thousand students in the Corona del Mar High School Facebook "network." The video consists of the three talking to their friend [REDACTED] and to the larger community of the high school. They address Hail directly. One tells her that [REDACTED] wants to kill her – "Hail, Joey told me that he wants to kill you. That he wants to legitimately kill you." Another says "I hope Hail watches this. And then you take a sniper to her forehead." One discusses raping her in the back of a truck, and, in a mockery of her last name, asks if she "catches cum in her mouth."

After learning about this video on the night of January 25, 2009, we were obviously appalled by what we saw and heard and concerned about Hail's safety and well-being, and we requested a meeting with Vice Principal McCulloch at the high school on January 26, 2009. We met with Vice Principal McCulloch on January 26 and reported the video and threats to him. The same day, we reported the video to the Newport Beach Police Department. Vice Principal McCulloch told us that he would take the matter to the District Office. We also suggested that the school should also take affirmative action to educate the student body about equality and different forms of discrimination, although Vice Principal McCulloch made no commitment in response to these suggestions. Vice Principal McCulloch also agreed to change Hail's spring semester schedule so that she would not have to have ongoing contact with the harassers.

The next day, [REDACTED] threatened Hail at school during their English class, telling her that "this" – presumably our having contacted the police and school authorities – "is the biggest mistake of your life." When Karyl reported this threat to Vice Principal McCulloch, he responded that he had no evidence that the threat had happened, and could not take action on "some made up thing." The week after the video was posted, a fellow student delivered a message to Hail on behalf of one of the boys who wanted Hail to know that she should not show up at any school events or social events and that if she did show up, he would make

everyone leave because she was there. Haile has experienced additional negative comments and backlash from her peers at school, apparently as a result of reporting the harassment.

As a result of the harassment, threats, and hostile environment Hail has experienced, her conduct at school and feelings about school have changed dramatically. She has resorted to parking in a different parking lot, taking different routes walking through the school, and not going to the bathroom at school, all in an effort to avoid any contact with her harassers, particularly when she is by herself and feels vulnerable. However, regardless of how hard Hail tries to avoid these boys, she inevitably runs into them if she is on campus, as she did as recently as this morning, when [REDACTED] stared at her menacingly. As you can imagine, this is very frightening and upsetting for her. Even when she is at home, she is not able to sleep well and feels scared much of the time.

To date, the actions taken by the administration of the school in response to the harassment, threats, and hostile environment experienced by Hail have been wholly inadequate, and send the message that at Corona del Mar High School, sexual harassment is not taken seriously. For example, the investigation into the harassment was assigned to a police officer who is also the assistant football coach at the high school and therefore has a relationship with the harassers. It cannot be reasonably suggested that a serious investigation was ever undertaken. If not the officer, then school administrators, knowing that there was an obvious conflict of interest, should have objected to this officer's assignment and insisted on an independent investigator.

Moreover, to the extent that the school has done anything, it has forced Hail into the position of having to change her schedule, classes, and routines in order to avoid these young men—in effect, penalizing her rather than the harassers. We request that the school and school district instead make all reasonable and necessary accommodations to ensure that Hail is able to fully access equal educational opportunities. We believe this requires restoring Hail's ability to participate fully in her classes and activities by removing the harassers from campus. Otherwise, Hail remains constantly exposed to a potential encounter with the harassers and subject to a hostile and threatening environment at school.

As if this all were not enough, in a development of grave concern to us, Hail has received negative attention from the Principal of the high school, Fal Asrani, since reporting the incident. Principal Asrani told both Hail (verbally) and ourselves (via email) that Hail is disrespectful of school administrators. Principal Asrani also singled Hail out in front of a classroom of students for admonishment for her dress, telling her to “cover her chest,” despite the fact that Hail was dressed appropriately in a sundress and sweater.

The school district and school administrators have legal responsibilities to Hail

and the other students at the school if they are experiencing harassment or discrimination. Under no circumstances should Hail be made to feel retaliated against for reporting the unacceptable, threatening, and abusive conduct to which she has been subjected.

Sincerely,

Karyl E. Ketchum, Ph.D.

Michael Wiggins

709 West Balboa Blvd.

Newport Beach CA 92661