

Statement from Brentwood Borough School District regarding Brentwood/Monessen Basketball Contest - 2-8-2012

There was an incident at the boys' basketball game Friday, February 3 at Brentwood High School between Brentwood and Monessen High School, where it has been alleged that a number of troubling comments or actions took place directed against Monessen players and fans.

District officials and security were present at the basketball game. These officials did not hear any racist or similarly derogatory remarks made towards Monessen players or their fans. As important, no such comments were reported to District officials or security during the game; otherwise District officials would have taken swift, corrective action.

After the game, the District conducted an investigation and spoke to a number of District students and staff who attended the game. Nothing has been revealed to indicate racist comments were made.

It seems students dressing in costume for athletic events is not uncommon in high schools and colleges. Two students did dress in banana costumes for the Monessen game. The District understands that these students have dressed like this for past athletic contests without incident. When these students at Friday's game, though, ran past the section where Monessen fans were seated, causing agitation and disruption, District officials immediately ejected the students from the game.

District officials have reviewed game tapes and have seen no other activity that confirms the allegations made. The District is continuing to investigate the matter to determine if any objectionable conduct took place. The District is also reviewing procedures regarding student and fan conduct at games. Brentwood Borough School District, its Directors, Administrators, and Students regret what took place at the game and the District will maintain action to ensure that any similar behavior does not occur again.