

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE: August 28, 2017**

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FINDS NO EVIDENCE THAT TORREY PINES HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PROGRAM VIOLATED THE LAW**

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**ENCINITAS** – Following a lengthy investigation into a parent’s allegation of “pay-to-play” in the Torrey Pines High School (TPHS) baseball program, the California Department of Education (CDE) has determined that neither the San Dieguito Union High School District nor the Torrey Pines High School Foundation required students to participate in fee-based programs or make donations in order to play on the TPHS baseball team. The complaint and investigation were previously reported in the press.

The parent had submitted a lengthy complaint to the district in January and appealed the district’s findings to the CDE in June. In a letter sent to the parent complainant and superintendent, the CDE’s decision affirmed the school district’s conclusions that the TPHS baseball program did not violate the law. The CDE decision included that the evidence in the complaint “failed to support a conclusion that students were required to participate in a fee-based AAU baseball program or make a donation to the Foundation in order to make the official TPHS spring baseball team.”

The CDE also found that baseball club teams operated by the TPHS Foundation outside of the regular season were separate from district-operated programs, so the related fees charged by the TPHS Foundation were permissible.

The evidence demonstrated that optional participation in private club sports and voluntary donations to the Foundation had no impact on which players ultimately made the TPHS baseball team. Students who donated received the same uniforms, equipment, and chance to make the team as those who did not.

“We’ve always known that the team’s success comes from the hard work, talent, and dedication of our outstanding student athletes and coaches,” said San Dieguito Union High School District Superintendent Eric Dill. “Our parents know when they choose to support our foundations that they are providing better opportunities for all students. We are grateful for their generosity.”

Torrey Pines High School Foundation Executive Director Nicole Baril was also satisfied with the conclusions of the district and CDE. “Our parents want the best for their kids and the Torrey Pines High School Foundation helps make that happen,” said Baril. “We couldn’t be happier with this affirmation from CDE. We hope we can put this controversy behind us and get back to focusing on providing what is in the best interests of our students.”

Since concluding its investigation, district officials have worked closely with administrators and foundation staff to ensure requests for voluntary donations continue to comply with the law. It recently held two trainings with legal counsel, staff, and parent organization representatives, and will schedule additional training once the school year begins.

*The San Dieguito Union High School District serves 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the communities of Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar, Cardiff, Rancho Santa Fe and surrounding areas. Covering 85 square miles, the district includes four high schools, five middle schools, and a continuation high school. Website: [www.sduhsd.net](http://www.sduhsd.net).*