

## Danielle Lueking

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**From:** Anissa Brown Dennis <Anissa\_BrownDennis@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 11:43 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [External] HCYP Gym Permit

Dear [REDACTED],

I want to thank you for reaching out to me and sharing your concerns regarding gym time for HCYP. I have met with Bernie Dennison and his staff on a number of occasions to resolve this issue and to satisfy the majority of HCYP requests. Adjustments have been made based on the annual process of gym holders releasing permitted gym time not actually needed.

In addition, prior to Mr. Dennison's staff sending out this notice on or about December 22, 2018, Mr. Dennison and I had agreed on December 21, 2018, to meet over the holiday break, which we did, to work through this situation. Each time we spend time meeting face to face and via phone, we come closer to working through this situation. A number of parents have shared that they are surprised that they have been asked to write letters to advocate for gym space. Well, I must say, I am surprised as well since I stand available to work with HCYP to resolve this issue in any way possible.

As my staff and I have explained to Mr. Dennison and his staff, gym time is contingent largely on the number of hours schools need their gyms for instructional use. For the beginning of this year, schools have reserved their own gyms 24% more than in the past, therefore gym time throughout the entire school system has been impacted for all users due to increased high school athletic games and practices, school PTA/Booster activities, instructional events, and professional development needs. Please note, under Board policy 10020 – PR – facility use schedule, schools have first priority.

In addition, we will reiterate to all of our community users that requesting and approving are two very different actions. A facility request does not automatically mean an approval. Prior to organizations sending out practice and game schedules to parents and community, user groups must first wait on approval from the Community Use of Facilities staff before communicating with others. Once our Community Use of Facilities staff receives notification that a community group requested space, per policy, many factors are considered prior to approving the gymnasium.

Again, I thank you for your concern and look forward to working with you and your organization throughout this school year. Please contact Mr. Bernie Dennison at [hocoyouthsports@verizon.net](mailto:hocoyouthsports@verizon.net) and Mr. BJ Borden at [hbordenjr@aol.com](mailto:hbordenjr@aol.com) should you have additional questions and or concerns regarding this matter.

*Nessa*

Anissa Brown Dennis  
Chief Operating Officer  
Howard County Public School System  
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**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 11:56 AM  
**To:** Anissa Brown Dennis  
**Subject:** FW: [External] HCYP Gym Permit

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 10:40 PM  
**To:** BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** [External] HCYP Gym Permit

I'm sure you are aware of this issue by now. We are extremely frustrated that my [REDACTED] grade daughter's basketball team has lost their Tuesday night practice time at Dunloggin Middle School (her team's neighborhood school. A single travel team now occupies the entire gym during that time. This is a widespread problem. HCYP states that Howard County has departed from long-standing practice and pulled and reassigned the permits mid-season. It's not clear what happened. However, someone has dropped the ball and it's the kids who are paying the price. Please work with HCYP to restore our practice times.

Thank you-

[REDACTED]