

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2018

After receiving inquiries regarding the alleged misappropriation of certain funds by the North Paulding Touchdown Club, the Club retained the services of Rountree Law Firm to investigate the allegations. Below is a summary of the investigation, the results of which have been shared with the Paulding County Board of Education (PCBOE) in an effort to address its questions. We are pleased to announce that the PCBOE just informed the Club that it will not require an audit or any special oversight based on the information it has received to date. This decision reinforces the productive and long-term association between the Club and North Paulding High School.

According to a recent Channel 46 investigative report, there were nine (9) corrected bank deposits during a three-month period indicating misappropriation of Club funds. During this time-period, the Club's investigation discovered that there were, in fact, eleven (11) corrected deposits made by our Bank. Following the Club's investigation, we learned that seven (7) of those corrections (ranging from 60 cents to \$485.00 for a total of \$584.60) *were favorable to the Club* and clearly demonstrate the lack of any misappropriation by the Club.

As for the remaining four (4) deposit corrections totaling \$1,210.00, the Club's investigation showed the following:

On July 12, 2017, there was a deposit correction debit to account for \$100.00. The deposit slip shows an addition error of \$100.00. Rather than nineteen (19) checks in the amount of \$100.00 each as calculated on the deposit slip, there were actually eighteen (18) checks of \$100.00 each. Given the large number of \$100.00 checks deposited that day and potential for error, the Club's investigation concluded that there was no proof of misappropriation of a \$100.00 check by the Club.

On August 22, 2017, there was a deposit correction debit to account for \$630.00. According to our Bank, the bank teller inadvertently entered \$70.00 on a withdrawal slip instead of the requested \$700.00 but proceeded to disburse \$700.00 as requested. The Bank acknowledged its error and promptly corrected it. As a result of this Bank error, there is clearly no indication of misappropriation in this transaction by the Club

On October 6, 2017, there was a deposit correction debit to account for \$210.00 following a deposit of multiple \$35.00 checks. Again, the Club's investigation showed that this was an inadvertent addition error on the deposit slip without any indication of misappropriation by the Club.

On October 23, 2017, there was a deposit correction debit to account for \$270.00 following a large after-hours cash deposit. The Bank discovered the deposit error the following business day and corrected it. The Club's investigation did not reveal any evidence that \$270.00 was misappropriated from this deposit. The Club's investigation concluded that if the depositor

had misappropriated this amount, he or she would likely have altered the deposit slip to reduce the cash deposit by the same amount in order to conceal the misappropriation. Given the apparent addition error in light of the large deposit, there was no indication of misappropriation of \$270.00 by the Club.

In addition to questions about these deposit corrections, Channel 46 reported that more than \$20,000.00 was missing from a Lift A Thon fundraising event in 2017. The Club's investigation confirmed that none of this money is missing and the funds were properly deposited into the Club's account for Club purposes only. Rather, the individual responsible for entering the deposit onto an internal accounting ledger apparently removed the entry either deliberately or unintentionally. This has been corrected, and there is no evidence whatsoever that these funds were misappropriated or missing.

“We are proud to support North Paulding Football and the youth cheer community. We rely entirely on volunteers to serve many roles within the Club and are extremely grateful for their efforts. We actively raise funds through a variety of functions year-round and have enjoyed tremendous support from our community since our formation almost a decade ago,” said Club President Kevin Bentley. Given the large number of payments received and processed over the course of a year, occasional minor errors have occurred. The Club is committed to ensuring the success of the Club and is implementing new procedures for handling funds with the hope of eliminating all errors. The Club has also recently hired a new accounting firm to provide ongoing accounting services. “While we regret the misleading Channel 46 investigative report, we are pleased with the outcome of the Club's investigation and look forward to continuing our mission and relationship with North Paulding High School, youth football and cheer programs, and the Paulding County Board of Education,” said Bentley.