

Grand Island coach who resigned is cleared of criminal wrongdoing

School doesn't plan to rehire Sauer

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Don Sauer, the popular Grand Island School District coach who was suspended and then resigned, has been cleared of criminal wrongdoing by the State Police, authorities said Wednesday.

Erie County District Attorney Frank A. Sedita III said that after State Police investigators consulted with Rosanne Johnson, chief of the DA's Special Victims Bureau, it was determined that "no prosecutable crime occurred."

Sauer's suspension and abrupt resignation occurred after the school district learned of the complaint last month.

"The police investigation is closed, and there was no criminal conduct," said State Police Capt. George Brown, head of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Batavia.

He declined to discuss the nature of the complaint.

But whatever was alleged against Sauer still remains a serious enough concern that Grand Island has no intention of rehiring the former coach, a school official said.

“The Grand Island School District is very comfortable with its personnel decision to accept his resignation based on the facts that are known to us to be true, including a statement from the coach given to the New York State Police,” School Superintendent Robert W. Christmann said.

He also declined to comment on the nature of the allegations.

Sauer, 59, of Boston, could not be reached to comment.

A retired district health teacher, Sauer had continued to coach for the boys and girls cross country teams and the boys track and field team.

He also has resigned as the statewide coordinator for boys track and field with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, a position he had held since the 1990s, according to local area school officials.