

AUHSD Board Meeting Attracts Crowd and Outcry over Coach Dismissal

By Andrea A. Firth

Meetings of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Governing Board are typically staid affairs attended by a handful of parents and teachers who listen as the Board members discuss matters of curriculum, staffing, and of late mostly the budget. However, the AUHSD Board was greeted last Wednesday with a packed house that overflowed into the lobby adjacent to the meeting room. Over eighty parents, players, and colleagues came to voice their support for former Miramonte Girls Varsity Basketball coach, Darrell Hirashima, and to express their discontent over his recent dismissal.

“We are outraged that

Darrell has been relieved as Miramonte’s Girls Basketball coach,” stated player parent Judy Batlin. “We are here because we want to you to reinstate Darrell Hirashima right now,” she added.

One by one players, parents, and a coaching colleague stepped up to the podium to convey to the Board their respect and admiration for Hirashima’s coaching talent and character. Several young women who had been coached by Hirashima related the support that he had provided them both on and off of the court. Described as a soft-spoken, good hearted, unpretentious man, several speakers noted the long-standing winning

ways of the Miramonte Lady Matadors under Hirashima’s coaching.

The Board was repeatedly asked to reconsider the decision to terminate Hirashima. “This is a good man. This is a good coach,” stated one parent. “Please take the time to reconsider this decision.”

The AUHSD Governing Board listened intently to the predetermined twenty minutes of public comment, however following their standard protocol; the Board conducted no further discussion of the matter at the meeting.