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PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM ESPANOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Espanola Public Schools regrets any inconvenience that the public release of certain district records may have caused to any Espanola students and families. The District's administration previously refused to release these records pursuant to an earlier *Rio Grande Sun* request due to student confidentiality concerns. However, the *Sun* then reasserted that request during the busy transition to a new district administration, and the documents were inadvertently disclosed.

While the *Rio Grande Sun* is an established media outlet and is well aware of the confidentiality rights of minor-aged students, the school district accepts responsibility for its error. Today, the Interim Superintendent submitted her resignation effective the end of the February 7, 2012 work day.

With respect to the allegations of hazing contained in the released document, the District is aware of the matter and has already launched a full investigation. To the extent permitted by law, the results of this investigation will be shared with the parents

of any students involved, as well as with district personnel and the community. If needed, further student and/or personnel disciplinary action will be taken.

As always, Espanola Public Schools is committed to the academic success, safety and well-being of its students. This incident will lead to a re-doubling of district efforts to achieve those goals.