

Statement regarding arrest of formal employee
April 25, 2023

We are profoundly saddened by the recent allegations that children in our community were harmed by the conduct of Mike Basse. We care deeply about all of our students and their safety and well being is our first priority.

The district recently became aware of the criminal charges made against Mr. Basse and the ongoing criminal investigation. However, at this time, we have received no indication that the crimes for which he is charged are related to his work in the district. From the information we've been provided by police, these incidents took place at other locations and were associated with other roles he played in the community. We will, of course, continue to cooperate with the law enforcement investigation and monitor any new information or developments closely.

Mike Basse was a substitute employee for the district and worked on a part-time basis. He was hired in 2007 after clearing standard background checks required of all UPSD employees. He was also a parent of a school-age child in the district at this time. He worked on a part-time basis until June of 2016, as a classroom assistant and health room paraeducator. He was never a teacher or a coach in the district.

The following information provides additional details about Mr. Basse's work history in the district:

- Because he was a substitute employee he worked at different locations on different days. The number of hours he worked varied significantly each year from fewer than 40 hours in 2007/08 to almost 415 hours in 2015/16. For context, a full-time classified employee works more than 1,000 hours in a given year.
- Mike Basse did not coach for the school district at any level. Our understanding is that he was a recreational youth baseball coach in the community and a martial arts instructor at a Tacoma location. Police would need to confirm this as these are not school sponsored activities.
- In July of 2016, the district was notified by UP police about a complaint they received from a parent that Mr. Basse was sending inappropriate messages and making inappropriate comments to several kids. Mr. Basse was immediately removed from our substitute list until an investigation was completed and was subsequently formally separated from the district. Neither our investigation, nor the investigation conducted by police involved any reports of inappropriate touching or physical sexual abuse.