

Coach charged in sexual assault of student

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A paraprofessional at Edison Career and Technology High School has been charged with sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child involving an incident with an East High School student in 2015.

Mariano Velazquez, 51, of Rochester, was a paraprofessional and athletic coach at East at the time of the alleged incident, according to a release from police. A letter from Edison to families of the school said Velazquez was suspended when the allegations first surfaced in early 2015, but “the allegations could not be proved and he was allowed to return to work.”

In the past two weeks, new information was brought to police which led to Velazquez’ arrest and days later he was placed on leave and “will not be allowed to have contact with students in any District school until this legal matter is resolved,” the letter reads.

Velazquez is the former girls varsity basketball coach at East. He was named All-Greater Rochester coach of the year after leading his team to the state championship in 2012. “We have no reason to believe that inappropriate activity occurred on school property or that other students were involved,” reads the letter from Principal Walter Larkin and School Chief of Secondary Schools Amy Schiavi. “However, if you or your child have information relevant to Mr. Velazquez or this case, please call 911 and speak with the police.

“We regret having to share this news, which creates a painful situation for the student and family involved. We ask our entire community to respect their privacy as we allow the justice system to run its course.”

No other details were released.

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Mariano Velazquez