

Ryan D. Miller
Assistant Principal - Athletics



Phone: 908-889-8600
Fax: 908-889-0253
Email: rmiller@spfk12.org

April 13, 2011

Dear SPFHS Track & Field Athlete and Parent/Guardian,

Over the course of the past few weeks there have been some major set-backs for the reconditioning of the Pole Vault Mats. The cost of new mats, \$13,000, precluded the district from purchasing new mats last year. In a strong effort to give complete understanding for this situation, I would like to give a full summary of the events that have transpired since August.

In August a company, Schutt Reconditioning, came to our site to give an estimate for the repair and reconditioning of the Pole Vault mats. Their estimate was returned in a timely manner and exceeded the New Jersey State code limit for a one quote purchase order. Therefore, a second estimate was required. In September, Riddell was contacted and agreed to give an estimate. Their estimate was returned in early October and was similar to Schutt. Riddell is the school approved reconditioning company and thus earned the job.

Riddell failed to take the Pole Vault mats even though numerous phone calls and emails were made to their representative and company. On March 4th Riddell arrived to pick up the mats; however, they came in a small box truck. After staying with me on site for about an hour, the Riddell representative took pictures and left without taking the mats, explaining that he had to show the pictures to his company. On March 7th I was informed that Riddell would not be able to honor their estimate. I promptly filed a complaint with Riddell and the Educational Bidding service. On March 8th I contacted Schutt who agreed to take the mats and make every effort possible to have the entire mat system returned prior to April 5th, our first meet. Pole Vault reconditioning can take 6-12 weeks. On April 4th, the mats arrived with one missing. The missing mat was not able to be certified and the proper foam had to be ordered. We are currently waiting on the manufacturing company for the foam.

I have been in contact with Schutt up to five times a day to track the progress of the Pole Vault Mats, explaining that our athletes have not been able to perform their desired event. Schutt is working diligently to fulfill their obligation.

We were able to use Westfield as a practice site; however, the weather, in conjunction with Westfield's field obligations, has only allowed us to go to Westfield twice. Practice for Pole Vault is now occurring via stiff pole jumps and sprints.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about the Pole Vault mats at 908-889-8600 x 404. Further updates will be made via the Cross Country and Track & Field website, <http://www.spfhsxctf.net>

Sincerely,

Ryan D. Miller