

Parent upset over school's reaction to daughter's diabetes

KATE DAY SAGER | THE TIMES HERALD |

BRADFORD, Pa. — A Bradford parent wants more answers about why a school nurse refused to help his diabetic 13-year-old daughter when she went to the nurses's office after experiencing low blood sugar.

Steve Vecellio told the Bradford Board of Education Thursday that his 13-year-old daughter, a student at Floyd C. Fretz Middle School, experienced extremely low blood sugar on Oct. 24.

Mr. Vecellio said his daughter began shaking in class and was sent to the nurse's office.

"When she went to the nurse, she sat down and said, 'I'm shaking, I need my glucose tabs,'" he said.

Mr. Vecellio said the nurse, whom he did not identify, allegedly did not help his daughter and told the child to call her mother.

He said his wife, a nurse at Bradford Regional Medical Center, had to rush from an operation at the hospital to the school to administer the glucose tabs to the child.

Mr. Vecellio said when his wife arrived at the school, their daughter was not in the nurse's office but had been sent on her way. He said they were very concerned because people experiencing diabetic lows can become disoriented, collapse or can even die.

"My daughter was put in a situation that could have cost her life," Mr. Vecellio continued.

He claimed the nurse and school administrators were casual about the incident and didn't believe anything was wrong with the situation. Additionally, he said a couple of administrators were rude to him and his wife during meetings.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Slavinski said he couldn't comment because it involves a personnel issue. Dr. Terry Hoover, principal at the middle school, could not be reached to comment, and the nurse in question had no comment.

Mr. Vecellio said he was just now bringing up the matter because administrators at the school dragged their feet on the issue. And, he said, no one apologized to his daughter or the family.

"Our daughter doesn't even want to come here anymore. She's a high honor student and well known . . . she doesn't want to come here and I don't blame her," he said.

Mr. Vecellio said he hopes the school board and district administrators will look into the matter. He also noted that he has also contacted six state agencies and the state board of nursing.

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