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Evesham school district faces suit after alleged bullying, beating

JEREMY ROSEN. [Courier Post](#). Cherry Hill, N.J.: [Apr 16, 2010](#).

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According to Epstein's complaint, K.L.'s first request for records was denied on Feb. 1, and on Feb. 12, the board responded to a follow-up request by providing 52 pages of records to K.L. "Those were other school records that he already had," Epstein said.

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An Evesham man is claiming the township's school district violated public records laws after his two children were allegedly beaten up at school.

Cherry Hill attorney Jamie Epstein filed the complaint against the Evesham Township Board of Education in state Superior Court on behalf of his client named "Plaintiff K.L."

The complaint alleges K.L.'s children, "K.L. Jr." and "L.L.," who are enrolled in the Florence V. Evans Elementary School, told school officials of several incidents in which they were kicked, punched, threatened and bullied by another student. K.L. twice asked for but didn't receive school investigation records surrounding alleged bullying incidents on Dec. 15 and 16 and Jan. 8 and 21, according to the complaint, filed March 30.

"We want to see the school's investigation of these incidents," Epstein said. "I can't say yet if it'll lead to anything more. We don't know why they won't comply."

BOE attorney Fredric Shenkman said he couldn't yet comment on specifics in this case.

"There is a substantial file and history," he said. "I have not yet viewed the entire file."

Shenkman, of the Atlantic City firm Cooper Levenson, said he hopes to have his analysis done by early next week and his opposition is due in court by May 5.

According to Epstein's complaint, K.L.'s first request for records was denied on Feb. 1, and on Feb. 12, the board responded to a follow-up request by providing 52 pages of records to K.L.

"Those were other school records that he already had," Epstein said. "My client

has made prior complaints to the school about the education and welfare of his children. I'll be looking into those if the school says it's an issue in this case."

Epstein said his client hasn't contacted police regarding any of the incidents referred to in the complaint.

K.L. is also seeking monetary relief the court deems just, including the costs of his legal fees, according to the complaint.

"There are state laws to let him contact police, but the school has the obligation to report (these incidents) to authorities," Epstein said.

Township superintendent John Scavelli Jr. didn't return calls Wednesday and Thursday seeking comment. Evesham Township Board of Education president Barry Fitzgerald deferred comment to counsel.

A hearing is scheduled before assignment Judge Ronald Bookbinder in Mount Holly on May 18, Epstein and Shenkman said.

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