



Town of Wallkill Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2014

Incident: Arrest of School Teacher – Endangering the Welfare of a Student
Location: Gene Black School at the George Robinson Center, 379 Mount Hope Road,
Town of Wallkill
Date/Time: April 4, 2014/ 8:00 am

On Wednesday April 2, 2014 at approximately 10:47 am, this Department was contacted by the Principal of the Gene Black School, located at 379 Mount Hope Road. According to the Principal, staff at the school had reported that Sharon Pehush, a teacher in the school, may have engaged in behavior that endangered a three-year (3) year old special needs child, whose identity is known to this Department.

During the subsequent investigation into this incident by Detective Julia Ashworth, it was discovered that on Friday, March 28, 2014, Sharon Pehush erected a barrier in the classroom which segregated the non-verbal child from other students for the entire school day. According to one witness, Pehush did not allow the child to attend scheduled activities including; speech therapy, lunch, snack time or gym class. A witness also reported that Pehush kept the child in a urine soaked diaper throughout the day, only changing the child's diaper immediately before the end of the school day.

On Friday, April 04, 2014 Sharon Pehush, a forty-five (45) year old female, who resides on Greeves Road, in the Town of New Hampton, was arrested and charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Pehush was arraigned in the Town of Wallkill Court and was released pending her next scheduled court appearance on April 10, 2014.

Robert C. Hertman
Chief of Police

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