

# VIDEO CAUSES UPROAR IN THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

by BRAELYN DIAMOND and JEKIMA HIBBERT

In a matter of hours the shocking video had rapidly spread. The footage of a female student being flung to the front of a Spring Valley High School classroom flooded social media and consumed popular news sources.

South Carolina had made the news yet again, and for Northeast freshman Emily Peralta the incident was no surprise.

"It was just kind of like, 'Oh, there's another thing that's happening,'" Peralta said.

Like Peralta, senior Kristen Jarvis was less surprised that an incident like this happened in South Carolina and more impressed with the attention the video got.

"I'm surprised that it got on tape," Jarvis said. "Incidents like that have happened before, but I'm just surprised about how big it blew up."

While the content of the video didn't faze some students, it seemed highly unusual for James Manning, the school board chairman and parent of a Richland Two student.

"Yesterday's incident was an outrageous exception to the culture, conduct and standards of which we strongly believe in in this district," Manning said in a statement after the event.

"One of the most upsetting incidents I have ever

listened to her superiors and it would've just avoided everything," she said.

After much evaluation on October 28th, less than 48 hours after the incident, Sheriff Leon Lott fired Fields.

"The maneuver he used was not based on his training nor acceptable," Lott said. "Our training unit looked at it, examined it...their recommendation to me was that Deputy Fields did not follow proper training or procedure when he threw the student across the room."

Lott added his own thoughts.

"What continues to upset me is that he picked a student up and threw her across the classroom," Lott said.

Northeast senior Jarvis supports Lott's decision to fire Fields, saying, "This should be a wakeup call for him." However, she said the student was handled in a rough manner and believes that, while the student should have received a reprimand, overall the matter should have been handled differently.

"Considering she's a female I feel there should of been a female officer to handle the situation," Jarvis said.

Unlike some others, Jarvis feels that both the student and the officer were in the wrong and the teacher also holds some responsibility.

"I feel like if you're getting a paycheck to teach, just teach," she said. "If they don't want to learn they don't want to learn."

Regardless of the outcome of this event, Manning said the district will take action going forward, including looking at the screening and training of resource officers.

"We are doing everything in our power to take action that not only prevents such a heinous act from recurring," he said, "but will make us a stronger school district to do an even better job for the children and families of this wonderful community."

**Top:** Photo taken from @\_cappex twitter account. Two Spring Valley students pose while wearing "Ben Fields" shirts.

**Right:** Photo taken from @JCass\_12 twitter. Two Spring Valley students wear homemade shirts in support of officer Ben Field's return.



Photo courtesy of @\_cappex twitter account

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**JAMES MANNING  
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN**

experienced," were the words of Superintendent Debbie Hamm, who said she had not seen anything like this in all four decades of working in the district.

As shocking as this incident may have been to some, at least one student said the resource officer involved, Ben Fields, was known for such acts. In an interview with NBC, Spring Valley student Niya Kenny said Fields was known as "Officer Slam."

Still, the incident in the classroom seemed a bit surreal to Kenny, who filmed the video that took the internet by storm.

"I freaked out," Kenny said in an interview with The Cavalier. "I've never in my life seen a child handled like that."

Yet, some feel Fields's actions were necessary.

Senior London Harrell of Spring Valley High School was involved in a student walkout in support of Fields. She has her own opinion who was responsible.

"The girl," Harrell explained, in an email interview with The Cavalier. "People need to remember Fields isn't a teacher. He is an officer. What started the situation was the girl's behavior."

Peralta agrees.

"I think it comes down to discipline, she should've

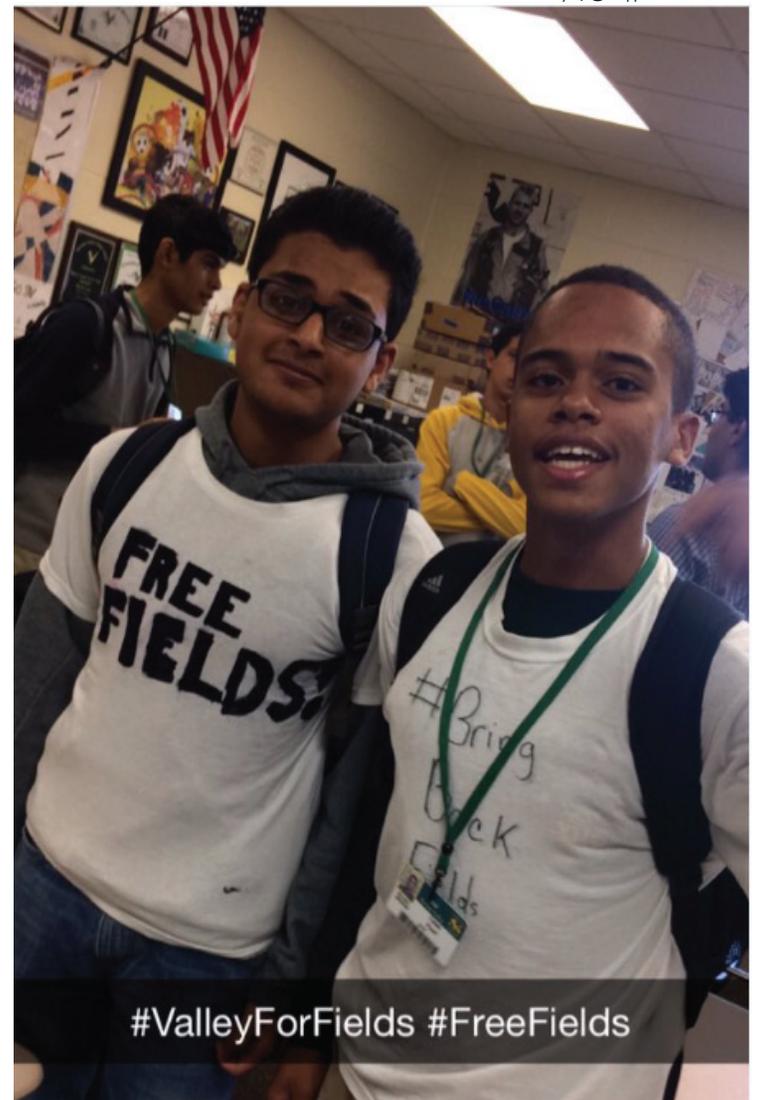


Photo courtesy of @JCass\_12 twitter account