

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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MAN ADMITS TO CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y. – DONALD FULLER, 48, of Hamburg, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, to felony charges of mail fraud and tax evasion, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. These charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gretchen L. Wylegala, who handled the case, stated that the defendant, who was the former Director of Facilities at Canisius High School, admitted that he had diverted over \$500,000 in school funds to himself dating back to 1997. Fuller admitted opening a bank account and a post office box in the name of DJ Mechanical, and issuing DJ Mechanical invoices to Canisius High School. Fuller was responsible for approving the invoices for payment. The work noted on those invoices was either not done, or done by in-house maintenance staff. Additionally, Fuller admitted that he did not declare the income from the fraudulent DJ Mechanical invoices on his tax returns.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge, Randy Miskanic, as well as Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigative Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, Patricia J. Haynes.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 26, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Chief U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

