

Communication Log 2015-16

Initiated By										
	Date	Responded By	Date	Topic	Phone	Letter	Email	Meeting	Other	
WGHS Varsity Boys Soccer Team	4/11/16			Thank you note		x				
Molly McPheeters	4/11/16			Thank you note						
Pat Zach	4/11/16	Amy Clendennen	4/11/16	Self Evaluation Inquiry			x			
Kim Mumm	4/11/16	David Addison	4/11/16	District Finances			x			
Kim Mumm	4/12/16	Steve Loher/Sarah Riss	4/14/16	Meeting minutes			x			
Joan McGinnis	4/17/16	Steve Loher	4/18/16	WKT Letter to the Editor by city councilman			x			
Kim Mumm	4/19/16	Steve Loher/Sarah Riss	4/19-20/2016	BOE Meeting Agendas			x			
Kim Mumm	4/21/16	Sarah Riss	4/22/16	Budget Link on Facebook Page			x			
Erin Boyle	4/20/16	Amy Clendennen	4/20/16	April 11, 2016 BOE Meeting			x			
Gail Gullickson	4/21/16	Amy Clendennen	4/21/16	April 11, 2016 BOE Meeting			x			
Erin Boyle	4/26/16	Sarah Riss	4/26/16	BOE Meeting, Facebook commenting & suggestion			x			
Ginger Krueger	4/26/16	na		Honest Concern			x			
* Please note: The communication log reflects verbatim copies of all materials sent. It does not imply or represent anything that the board has approved, endorsed or agreed to.										



Dear Webster Groves School District Board,

The Webster Groves High School Soccer Team thanks you for all of the things you have done to help make our recent successes possible. We also appreciate your invitation to the January School Board Meeting. We are proud to represent Webster Groves High School and the Webster Groves School District. We thank you for your support in the past, present, and the future.

Sincerely,
WGHS Soccer Team

As #

Jordan Andras #28

David Becker

Jeff Randoyle #33

Kieran Tilford

Sheridan Smith #10

Dennis R. Paloucek III

Mike Hanchan #3

Dodge Dunkley #77

Samuel Gomez

John Conley #4

David Richards #18

Ann Oliver #9

John A. Butler #5

Ryne DeLuna #80

Ben Mason #17

Will Spivey #12

Josh Michalski #15

Sam Coshel #21

Mitchell Paulson #11

Dear Board of Education,

In Hixson Middle School we have a technology media center, when I was in 7th grade I use to come up here and joke around and talk to all the workers and the kids that were in tech yes, you know, being my silly self. Over the summer, I was starting to look into coding from javascript and hour of code. When 8th grade hit, I started to come up and ask more of technology questions and things about coding. Maybe, three weeks into the school year I went up to the technology room asking how do I get into tech yes. They asked why I would want to be in. I answered, "over the summer I started looking into more technology lessons, such as coding and editing videos." They let me in tech yes. Ever since I was in tech yes my grades have been very good, I've been a better person to my surroundings and my family and I am learning something new and improved every single day of my life. I was able to be my true self and not be afraid about what people think of me, or what they might think. I thank the Technology Media Center at Hixson Middle School for this.

Sincerely,

Molly McPheeters

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Lori Medlin

From: Amy Clendennen
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Pat Zach
Cc: David Addison; Emerson Smith; Steve Loher; Jean Dugan; Michael Shipley; Joel Oliver; Lori Medlin
Subject: Re: 2016 Board Self-Evaluation

Dear Pat:

The Board's self-evaluation took place on March 28, 2016. This informal discussion provided us with a valuable opportunity to discuss our roles and responsibilities as Board members and to strengthen our personal relationships. No public business was discussed during this gathering.

The Missouri "sunshine" law, Section 610.010 of Missouri Revised Statutes, defines a "public meeting" as "any meeting of a public governmental body . . . at which any public business is discussed, decided, or public policy formulated The term "public meeting" ***shall not include an informal gathering of members of a public governmental body for ministerial or social purposes when there is no intent to avoid the purposes of this chapter.*** . . ." (emphasis added).

In the past, the Board self-evaluation has taken place during a regular Board meeting. Upon reflection on the purpose and content of this year's self-evaluation, we determined that no public business would be discussed. Therefore, there was no need to convene a public meeting. As a school attorney I am committed to ensuring that our Board complies with the Sunshine law and am confident we have done so.

As you know, the Board strives for transparency and has made several improvements over the past few years to provide the public with greater access and information. We are open to feedback and will continue to do our best to ensure that communication flows in both directions.

Thank you for your continued interest in the District.

Amy Clendennen

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 11, 2016, at 10:45 AM, Pat Zach <patzach62@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

Thank you for your service to the school district.

The purpose of this communication is to inquire about this year's Board self-evaluation meeting.

Last year, the Board's self-evaluation took place on March 23, 2015 at a Special Meeting, open to the public. The minutes of that meeting indicate that all current members of the Board of Education were present and that Dr. John Urkevich facilitated the board's self-evaluation. At least one member of the public, Mr. Dave Buck, was present; public comments from him are part of the minutes of that meeting. In addition, the documents for that meeting are posted on the district's website.

It would appear from the foregoing that the Board of Education considered its self-evaluation to be a public matter, conducted in an open meeting.

This year, The Board's self-evaluation was listed on the BoE Meeting topics, posted on its webpage. The self-evaluation was scheduled for March 28, 2016. The minutes of the February 8, 2016 Board meeting include:

"Mr. Addison provided a review of the Board Self Evaluation Process. Dr. John Urkevich will be the facilitator. Dr. Riss sent a link to each board member to complete a survey as the first task of this process. The opportunity for discussion will be held at the Board meeting on March 28, 2016."

From this information, it appears that this year's Board self-evaluation would again take place at a board meeting.

However, the minutes of the March 7, 2016 Board meeting include the following:

"John Urkevich will facilitate the Board of Education self-evaluation discussion **at a gathering not open to the public** on March 28 at 6:00 p.m. The next BOE meeting has moved to the (sic) March 29 before the Community Forum on Facilities." [emphasis added]

My questions are:

- Why was the 2016 Board self-evaluation changed from a Board meeting to a "gathering not open to the public" when the 2015 self-evaluation took place at a board meeting that was open to the public?

It appears that the topic was the same as the 2015 meeting, the facilitator was the same individual, and one might reasonably assume that the same seven board members attended this year.

- Under what exception to the Missouri Open Meetings Statutes was the March 28 meeting "not open to the public"?

It is valuable for the public to have the opportunity to observe this process and by doing so determine how its publicly elected board whose members represent us evaluates itself. More specifically, I hoped to learn how the board evaluates its relationship and communication with the public it serves.

Sincerely,

Patricia Zach

733 Florence Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: letter

For the communication log as the response to the letter I am also emailing to you from Kim M.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
 Superintendent of Schools
 Webster Groves School District
 314-962-1233

From: Addison, David [<mailto:DAddison@rgare.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 12:32 PM
To: kmummm@charter.net; David Addison; Amy Clendennen; 'emersonsmith@gmail.com'; Steve Loher; 'dugan.jean@wgmail.rog'; Joel Oliver; Michael Shipley
Cc: Sarah Riss; Diane Moore; John Simpson
Subject: RE: letter

Dear Kim:

I wanted to acknowledge your letter and thank you for sharing your opinions with the board.

Whereas I don't think it is realistic to expect a vendor to provide a discount for services previously provided, our CFO is constantly looking for ways to ensure that district funds are employed in the most cost effective manner as evidenced by the proposal she is bringing to the board this evening.

I know that you appreciate that the final decision needs to reflect all aspects of the issue. If one possible solution, while cheaper, exposes the district to significant potential costs and risk exposure, that may mean it makes more sense to invest a little more for peace of mind.

I look forward to hearing from Dr. Moore this evening to understand the rationale behind the possible alternatives , as I am sure does the rest of the board.

I hope you will be able to attend to hear Dr. Moore's proposal.

Regards

David

From: kmummm@charter.net [<mailto:kmummm@charter.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 12:18 PM
To: 'addison.david@wgmail.org'; 'clendennen.amy@wgmail.org'; 'emersonsmith@gmail.com'; 'loher.steve@wgmail.org'; 'dugan.jean@wgmail.rog'; 'oliver.joel@wgmail.org'; 'wgsdshipley@gmail.com'

Cc: 'riss.sarah@wgmail.org'; 'moore.diane@wgmail.org'; 'simpson.john@wgmail.org'

Subject: letter

Dear BOE, Sarah, Diane and John,

I have attached a letter for you. Thank you taking the time to read it and best wishes to all,

Kim Mumm

April 11, 2016

Dear BOE members,

I conducted a comparative analysis report this past summer, contacting 74 other Missouri public school districts regarding their payroll operations. Every one of them runs payroll in house, using educational business software which is aligned w/ DESE and the IRS to virtually eliminate risk and account for the uniqueness of Missouri public school payroll regulations. Not one of the districts I contacted contracts out for payroll. Many specifically told me they believed contracting out would add risk, cost and inefficiency over their HR/internal payroll integration using educational business software.

Given that the \$5,000 elementary strings program was presented to the board last spring for possible elimination and 1.5 custodian positions and multiple low cost teacher aide positions (some working as few as 10 hours per week) were cut last spring, it should be germane to determine what cost has been expended for payroll.

The district has employed a more than 20 year practice of paying ADP for external payroll, despite the fact it has owned an educational business software for ~ 16 years that would have allowed for running in-house payroll as well as managing HR operations.

The cost expended to ADP for payroll from just 2008-09 through 2014-15 was \$656,132, including \$114,006 in 2013-14 and \$117,327 in 2014-15. Not included in the cost is the salary and benefits of the current WGSD payroll specialist, nor is it listed in tonight's payroll contract report, dated April 11, 2016.

This year \$119,675 is budgeted for ADP services; tonight's report indicates that unless a re-negotiated two or three year contract is signed, ADP will charge \$119,675 again next year. Additionally the report states that very little time remains before the beginning of the new fiscal year to make necessary changes to begin internal payroll operation. Anticipating the time necessary to make changes was the very reason my report was provided to the board, administration and Financial Advisory Committee about 7 months ago, September 6, 2015.

Additional considerations:

If you decide to continue to contract w/ ADP for 2-3 years, as recommended by the COO:

- Tonight's report states the annual cost to ADP was recently re-negotiated to ~\$85,000. If the district will sign on for 2-3 more years. If this is the first time the ADP cost has been re-negotiated in the past 20+, or even past several years, it really does send a message the district didn't consider it necessary to try to minimize all Central Office expenditures before it cut essential staff and programming and as it returned to the tax payers each 5 years for tax levies.
- ADP could be asked to reimburse or credit the district for the payment costs that exceeded \$85,000 in prior years. The sum would be \$95,000 just for the years 2013-14 through what is budgeted this year.

- In its report to the board on March 7, 2016, the Financial Advisory Committee stated the current payroll employee manually enters duplicate data into the ADP system. One could assume that if a software link were purchased to electronically transfer payroll data, hours and effort of the current employee might be reduced, also lowering cost.

If you decide to change operations to in -house, using existing SISfin software

- \$5,000 for training payroll and HR staff by Tyler Technologies is a very low cost with high value.
- Tonight's payroll contract report quotes an annual savings of ~\$13,000-\$20,000 for in-house payroll operations. According to the support staff salary scale presented at tonight's meeting, \$13,000 would pay for a half time instructional aide who has 11-120 years of experience. As mentioned above, additional savings might be realized.
- Why would it not be reasonable to ask ADP for the reduction in cost to ~\$85,000 for just one year, next year, if it is decided that year is required to properly prepare for in- house payroll, beginning fiscal year 2017-18?
- Optimizing the capability of the educational business software has the potential of maximizing efficiency, optimizing effectiveness of operations, minimizing risk, preventing duplication and errors, and reducing costs. I hope it can happen soon.

Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate your decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kim Mumm
WGSD resident

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Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:31 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: Communications with the Board's Attorney

For the communication log.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: Steve Loher [mailto:steveloher@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 1:46 PM
To: kmummm@charter.net
Cc: copeland@ctfpc.com; Lori Medlin; David Addison; Jean Dugan; Emerson Smith; Amy Clendennen; Michael Shipley; Arnold Stricker; Sarah Riss; John Simpson
Subject: Re: Communications with the Board's Attorney

Thank you, Kim. I am glad you now have a better understanding of Doug's responsibilities to and work for the district. As I stated, Dr. Riss more than adequately addressed your issue and Ms. Clendennen's written words will not be entered into the minutes. If Ms. Clendennen would have been there in person, she could have expressed her thoughts directly to Mr. Oliver verbally as the rest of us did. That would have saved you an awful lot of work and concern over this issue.

I appreciate your thoughts on recording meetings. We shall see how that issue progresses as we get more details.....Steve

On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 1:13 PM, <kmummm@charter.net> wrote:
Dear Steve,

Having never addressed Doug before, I didn't know he wouldn't be able to reply to me; thank you for clarifying. Below is what I wrote to him to explain why I think my request is reasonable to have the verbatim written comment, as it was read, posted as an addendum, or entered into the correspondence log.

Aside from the rationale I stated to Doug, Amy provided her comments in writing. Dr. Riss read them as part of the meeting agenda. The ease with which they could be attached to the minutes of the board meeting differs from asking the Board secretary to record the verbatim comments of the other board members.

This is a perfect example of how, if the BOE meetings were tape recorded, they would provide an accurate and complete account of what was said.

I hope you will consider simply attaching the letter to the 4-11-16 formal meeting minutes. It is important the public is aware of what it said. I don't believe it would be logical for me to try to quote the letter. I certainly might have recalled it incorrectly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim

From: kmummm@charter.net
To: "copeland@ctfpc.com"
Cc:
Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2016 09:52:42 -0500
Subject: FW: RE: request related to content of minutes

Dear Doug,

I addressed by e-mail to the board members, Lori and you to make a request. I see you do not appear to have been included in the email I have forwarded, below. I addressed the e-mail request to you, because I know you are the board's attorney and you were very helpful with deciding the best method for entry of a meeting minute addendum recently, when one of the board members wrote what he believed was an accurate presentation of what he had said in a meeting, compared to the version that had been presented for vote.

The letter read by Sarah in the 4/11/16 meeting was denoted by a specific addition to the meeting's agenda, entitled, "013G Special Comments by the Superintendent Sarah Riss".

http://www.webster.k12.mo.us/files/_PHDIE_/a233c99873cb22293745a49013852ec4/001_draft_Agendas_April_11_2016.pdf

When the meeting reached "013G Special Comments by the Superintendent Sarah Riss", Dr. Riss rose to her feet and verbally read (I assume, in full, and verbatim) a formal statement she declared was written by Mrs. Clendennen, BOE VP, who was not in attendance.

The letter needs to be entered into the formal public record. It should either be attached in its entity, as an addendum, or could be entered into the public correspondence log.

Thank you for your help with this matter and for your long term service to WGSD.

Sincerely,

Kim Mumm

From: "Sarah Riss"

To: "kmummm@charter.net", "David Addison", "Amy Clendennen", "Emerson Smith", "Jean Dugan", "Steve Loher", "Michael Shipley", "Arnold Stricker", "Lori Medlin"

Cc: "John Simpson"

Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2016 14:24:55 +0000

Subject: RE: request related to content of minutes

Dear Kim,

Thank you for request regarding the Board minutes for Monday, April 11, 2016. According to Board Policy BDDG minutes are not meant to be a verbatim account of the meeting. It would be inappropriate for us to include verbatim comments from one board member and then not include the other many wonderful statements made about Mr. Oliver from another board member. Board Policy BDDG states,

"Whereas it is recognized that the Board of Education speaks through its minutes, the Board shall direct the secretary of the Board to take, or cause to be taken, the minutes of each Board meeting. The minutes of all Board meetings shall be accurate, complete and meet all legal requirements. The superintendent shall be responsible for their safe keeping. The minutes of meetings of the Board of Education will include but are not limited to the following:

- 1. The nature of the meeting (regular, special, open, closed, etc.), the time, the date, the place of the meeting and the Board members present and absent.*
- 2. A record of all motions made, together with the names of the members making and seconding the motions, and a numerical record of the members voting "yea" and "nay," unless each member's vote is recorded due to a roll call vote or required by law. Special notation should be made of abstaining members, and their vote should be recorded as an abstention.*

The minutes will be signed by the president and attested by the secretary of the Board following their approval by the Board."

Thank you for your suggestion however we will continue to do minutes as a summary of the meeting with specific focus on decisions made.

Thank you,

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: kmummm@charter.net [mailto:kmummm@charter.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 11:27 AM

To: David Addison; Amy Clendennen; Emerson Smith; Jean Dugan; Steve Loher; Michael Shipley; Arnold Stricker; Lori Medlin; 'copeland@ctfpc.com'

Cc: Sarah Riss; John Simpson

Subject:

Dear BOE, Lori and Doug,

Congratulations on the new board formation and on your presidency, Steve, and continuation of your VP role, Amy. Thank you for your service as past president, David. Best wishes for this upcoming year for you all, as you work to assure best practice in all areas for WGSD, represent the citizens and champion transparency.

I have a request for you, please. I would like to request the letter you wrote, Amy, which Sarah read aloud at last night's board of education meeting in your absence, please be entered, in its entirety, into the formal meeting minutes of last night's meeting. It might be more logical for you to attach it as an addendum, Lori. Doug, I'm sure you can advise the most appropriate method for the entire letter to be included in the public record as part of last night's meeting.

Thank you for your help.

Kim

From: "Steve Loher"

To:

Cc: "Amy Clendennen", "Doug Copeland", "Sarah & Greg Riss", "Lori Medlin"

Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2016 12:32:01 -0500

Subject: Communications with the Board's Attorney

Good Afternoon, Kim -

I wanted to contact you so that you wouldn't be waiting on a response from Attorney Doug Copeland regarding your Board Minutes related communications. Mr. Copeland is the Board of Education's attorney and he will not be providing you with legal opinions regarding school district matters.

Dr. Riss more than adequately addressed your issue in a separate e-mail earlier today on which I and the rest of the Board was copied.

Thank you, and have a great day.....Steve

--

Steve Loher

(Mobile) 314-853-5994

(E-Mail) SteveLoher@GMail.com

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Steve Loher

(Mobile) 314-853-5994

(E-Mail) SteveLoher@GMail.com

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Lori Medlin

From: Steve Loher <steveloher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 10:09 AM
To: Joan McGinnis; Sarah Riss; Lori Medlin; Amy Clendennen
Subject: Re: Regarding article in Webster Kirkwood times friday april 15, 2016

Good Morning, Joan -

Thank you for your e-mail. Just to clarify, Mr. Mueller did not write an article, he wrote a letter to the editor like any other citizen can do stating his opinions. Given his candidacy for public office, I am sure he and his political team will be writing several more over the coming months. The Webster-Kirkwood Times did not fact-check the letter and there are several inaccuracies contained within his letter. There are also interpretations made by Mr. Mueller about which we do not agree. Our district is crafting a response and will be submitting it to the Webster-Kirkwood Times to correct the inaccuracies and help try to explain the things Mr. Mueller does not understand.

I appreciate your concern and communication.....Steve Loher, WGSD Board of Education

P.S. I am copying Superintendent Dr. Sarah Riss along with Board of Ed. VP Amy Clendennen on this response so they know of your concerns too. I am also submitting this to Board Secretary Lori Medlin so it can be included in our communications log.

On Sun, Apr 17, 2016 at 7:58 PM, Joan McGinnis <joanmcg2@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

I am wondering if the article written by Greg Mueller is true. the things he states show that the tax increase was not needed in view of the tax raises and the big increase in funds which he states are there. I hope that someone who knows can address this for next week's paper, as I think his comments may negatively affect further efforts for tax raises.. Joan McGinnis, Webster Groves resident. 657 Clark Ave. thank you.

--

Steve Loher
(Mobile) 314-853-5994
(E-Mail) SteveLoher@GMail.com

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:19 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: a contrast

For the communication log

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: kmummm@charter.net [mailto:kmummm@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:17 PM
To: Sarah Riss
Cc: David Addison; Jean Dugan; Amy Clendennen; Emerson Smith; Steve Loher; Michael Shipley; Arnold Stricker; 'copeland@ctfpc.com'; Lori Medlin; John Simpson
Subject: RE: a contrast

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for clarifying you do not control or set the agendas; yesterday, Steve clarified this for me. I have pasted our exchange below, because not all were copied in on it. The citation I provided of the city council agenda item, which actually addressed thanking former council members and welcoming the new ones is one that may serve as a nice way to introduce the next BOE transition.

I did attend the council meeting last evening. I did observe what I would term a substantial difference in approach. The room was abuzz with what I perceived predominately as supporters of the new council members, much like at the April 11th school board meeting. The mayor made an immediate statement to welcome the new council members. She then explained how the evening would progress, when to expect the departing council members would be recognized, verbally and with gifts, there would be a recess for cake, opportunities for photos and greeting departing and oncoming members, then re-adjournment for installation of the new representatives. In the recognitions of departing representatives, she and other councilmen made more welcoming statements directed at the newly elected trio. The installations were also lovely, with more welcoming statements formally made following them.

As I acknowledge in the exchange with Steve, pasted below, perceptions and recollections can vary wildly. Once the board of education begins recording its meetings much of this variability will be eliminated.

From: kmummm@charter.net
To: "Steve Loher", "Sarah & Greg Riss", "Amy Clendennen", "John Simpson"
Cc:
Sent: Tue, 19 Apr 2016 11:47:04 -0500
Subject: Re: a contrast

Dear Steve,

Yes; we shall just disagree.

You are correct about the cake. I should have mentioned that. If the agendas are a joint effort, that is good to know, and maybe the contrast example will be helpful for the next time the situation arises.

I don't recall your statement of welcome to Arnold, nor did some others who were in attendance, but perceptions can most certainly vary, as this exchange demonstrates.

Kim

From: "Steve Loher"
To: "Sarah & Greg Riss", "Amy Clendennen", "John Simpson"
Cc:
Sent: Tue, 19 Apr 2016 11:16:29 -0500
Subject: Re: a contrast

Good Morning, Kim -

Thank you for your e-mail. To correct you, Dr. Riss does not "construct" the Board of Education agendas. The agendas are set during a meeting of the Board President, Board VP, Dr. Riss and now incoming Superintendent Dr. Simpson. We had just such a meeting yesterday morning.

With regards to the comments made, Ms. Clendennen has every right to express her feelings about Mr. Oliver's departure from the Board whether you agree with them or not. And we have officially covered (more than once) what would and would not be included in the minutes and why.

Your recollection of the events is a bit off in the fact that I actually did verbally welcome Mr. Stricker to the Board and we did have a celebratory cake to thank Mr. Oliver and welcome Mr. Stricker. I recall you partaking in that, but MY recollection may be wrong. At no time did the events come close to being "stunning" or "bizarre" in my opinion, but if that is your opinion, you have your right to it. We shall just disagree.

I hope you enjoy the WG City Council meeting tonight.

Sincerely, Steve Loher, President WGSD Board of Education

From: "Sarah Riss"
To: "kmummm@charter.net"
Cc: "David Addison", "Jean Dugan", "Amy Clendennen", "Emerson Smith", "Steve Loher", "Michael Shipley", "Arnold Stricker", "copeland@ctfpc.com", "Lori Medlin"
Sent: Wed, 20 Apr 2016 15:42:54 +0000
Subject: RE: a contrast

Dear Kim,

Thank you for your comments. First, you need to know that I do not control or set the agenda for the Board meetings. The Board president and vice president have control over the agenda. Certainly I work with them on this and provide guidance but they have the final approval. I am glad you felt it appropriate for us to thank Joel for his service. This is common practice in our district to thank people who have served on our board. They have devoted a minimum of three years of service to our district. It has been a long time tradition to also give them two pieces of art work – one to keep and one for us to hang in their honor in the central office. These actions were in no way meant to cause Mr. Stricker to feel unwelcome. If that happened I will personally apologize to him. It may have gone unnoticed or unheard by you, but I heard board members welcome Mr. Stricker. Our cake welcomed Mr. Stricker and thanked Mr. Oliver. To be fair, we also did not do individual comments regarding Mr. Loher. We had important business to accomplish prior to the end of the board meeting. On a personal note, I want you to know that I feel Mr. Stricker will be an excellent board member. A few days prior to the board meeting we met, I gave him a few small welcoming gifts, and we set a time to tour schools. Just last week we spent the day together, toured each school and had lunch together. You will not see everything I do and I hope someday you will be able to trust that I am a good person, open to new ideas, and value each and every one of our board members. They give us a huge amount of time voluntarily. Their advice is priceless to me. As always, you know you can call me if you would like to share a concern or discuss something with me.

Please have a good day.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: kmummm@charter.net [<mailto:kmummm@charter.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:51 AM
To: Sarah Riss
Cc: David Addison; Jean Dugan; Amy Clendennen; Emerson Smith; Steve Loher; Michael Shipley; 'stricker@wgmail.org'; 'copeland@ctfpc.com'; Lori Medlin
Subject: a contrast

Dear Sarah,

I know you are the one who constructs the board of education agendas. As you may realize from my communications last week, I was shocked to witness at the April 11, 2016 board meeting, the meeting in which new board members were installed, you reading orally a letter written by our school board VP, Amy, in her absence. The opening statements of the letter were appalling to me, in fact. The wording was something about it being the worst day or lowest point in Amy's entire board term. Then the statement

continued with accolades for the retiring board member, echoed by you and the other board members. As you know from my communication last week, I did request Amy's letter, which you, as the board's employee, read aloud, be posted in the public record. I even e-mailed Doug Copeland, the board's attorney to weigh in to approve Amy's letter being added as an addendum to the meeting minutes. My request was denied, so my recollection of what was said will have to suffice.

The praise was from all lovely and very well deserved. The initial very negative comments were what was stunning. Also lacking was any welcome of the new board members, one who is completely new to the board. It added to the bizarre scene. I heard not word of welcome from you, no word in the board VP, Amy's written statement, and no word from the newly elected BOE president, Steve. You may think it odd for me to make such a big deal of this one issue. It is only one small issue, but it is representative of an attitude and many examples of similar actions. It seems maybe you and some on the board may not realize the messages you relay.

As you know, our city council also will be retiring three members this evening; one decided not to continue on the council; the other two lost their re-election bids. Three new council members will be installed tonight. I plan to attend the council meeting, since I spent some time at polling places on April 5th with both current and newly elected council members. I enjoyed getting to know them all very much. I just looked at the city council agenda for tonight's meeting. It is a stark contrast to the April 11, 2016 BOE agenda.

The agenda reads (in part):

"RECOGNITION - Honoring Council Members Kathy Hart, Anne Tolan and Debi Salberg • Council will take a brief recess to thank the Council Members for their service, and welcome the new Council Members."

Isn't that a gracious statement? I think it is.

I suspect I will hear welcoming statements tonight from the mayor and sitting council members to our newly elected representatives. If I don't, I'll let you know.

Sincerely,

Kim Mumm

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 5:10 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: The budget link you have posted on your Facebook page

For the correspondence log.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: kmummm@charter.net [mailto:kmummm@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 5:01 PM
To: Sarah Riss; Diane Moore; Joann Kite
Cc: John Simpson; David Addison; Amy Clendennen; Jean Dugan; 'loher.steve@wgmil.org'; Arnold Stricker; Emerson Smith; Michael Shipley; Lori Medlin
Subject: RE: The budget link you have posted on your Facebook page

I see the "2014-15 Budget Final" report now included on the business page, and the fiscal year budgets, are, in fact, more succinctly categorized, on both the business page and the board of education page.

Thank you.

Kim

From: "Sarah Riss"
To: "kmummm@charter.net", "Diane Moore", "Joann Kite"
Cc: "John Simpson", "David Addison", "Amy Clendennen", "Jean Dugan", "loher.steve@wgmil.org", "Arnold Stricker", "Emerson Smith", "Michael Shipley", "Lori Medlin"
Sent: Fri, 22 Apr 2016 19:27:38 +0000
Subject: RE: The budget link you have posted on your Facebook page

Dear Kim,

Diane is meeting with the webmaster this afternoon to review both website and make changes as needed. Thank you.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: kmummm@charter.net [mailto:kmummm@charter.net]

Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 12:14 PM

To: Sarah Riss; Diane Moore; Joann Kite

Cc: John Simpson; David Addison; Amy Clendennen; Jean Dugan; 'loher.steve@wgmil.org'; Arnold Stricker; Emerson Smith; Michael Shipley; Lori Medlin

Subject: RE: The budget link you have posted on your Facebook page

Dear Sarah,

It is of the utmost urgency this one report, **"2014-15 Budget Final"** be added to the business page link ASAP. I just left voice messages for Diane and Lori to implore this happen immediately. I understand nothing could be done last evening when I first sent my request. I see, as of about 5 minutes ago, the report is still not present on the page where the public has been directed to look.

Amy and Steve's comprehensive letter to the *Webster Kirkwood Times* specifically directs readers to the BUSINESS page to see 2014-15 documents. In addition, the WGSD Facebook page has a link to the BUSINESS page. If the reader does go to the BUSINESS page of the WGSD to click on "2014-15 Final Budget Documents", he will only see 7 of the 8 2014-15 documents.

The 8th document, **"2014-15 Budget Final"**, the one I consider critical, is the only document which shows the year end variances for major revenues, the only one that shows documentation of the \$1.7 million dollars in unexpected revenues and the only one that shows the final budget numbers, compared to the beginning budget numbers. It is a critical report for the public to see.

As I have written, and show in my new screen shots, this 8th and critical report, **"2014-15 Budget Final"**, IS LINKED from the BOARD OF EDUCATION page. In the interest of transparency and accuracy, it needs to please be added to the BUSINESS page link ASAP.

Thank you for your help.

Kim

From: "Sarah Riss"

To: "kmummm@charter.net", "Diane Moore", "Joann Kite"

Cc: "John Simpson", "David Addison", "Amy Clendennen", "Jean Dugan", "loher.steve@wgmil.org", "Arnold Stricker", "Emerson Smith", "Michael Shipley"

Sent: Fri, 22 Apr 2016 16:48:16 +0000

Subject: RE: The budget link you have posted on your Facebook page

Thank you for your suggestion. We are taking it under consideration. If anything was inadvertently left off any one of the sites we will review and address it this afternoon. Thank you.

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: kmummm@charter.net [mailto:kmummm@charter.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:04 PM

To: Diane Moore; Joann Kite

Cc: Sarah Riss; John Simpson; David Addison; Amy Clendennen; Jean Dugan; 'loher.steve@wgml.org'; Arnold Stricker; Emerson Smith; Michael Shipley

Subject: The budget link you have posted on your Facebook page

Hello,

I am not on Facebook, but was shown by someone that you posted Steve and Amy's WK Times letter of today on your WGSD FB page in an effort to clarify what you termed "not completely accurate" information written in a WK Times letter last week. It appears to me you have omitted linking a critical 2014-15 budget report.

You have directed readers to go to the WGSD web page **Business page**, instead of the **Board of Education** page, where the **complete 2014-15 budgets are linked**. I have attached screen shots of the pages for you to show you how they differ.

If a person wanting the ENTIRE story about the 2014-15 budget, he would need to begin with 2014-15 projections (from June, 2014), then follow along through the 1st (October, 2014) then 2nd (March, 2015) budget adjustments, then he would need to read the "*FINAL 2014-15 budget*", presented at the June 22, 2015 board meeting. Finally, he would need to either read the August, 2015 ASBR and/or read the "15-16 Budget adjustments 2nd Final" document, which displays the ACTUAL 2014-15 figures to know the final revenue and expenditures.

ALL of these reports are linked from the board of education page, as my screen shot shows. The ASBR can be found in the November 9, 2015 board of education meeting documents, linked here:

http://www.webster.k12.mo.us/pages/WGSD/Departments/BOARD_OF_ED/Elements/BOE_Documents/Agendas/Public_Documents/11-09-2015_Meeting_Documents

Perhaps MOST important, is the FINAL 2014-15 budget, dated June 16, 2015, that was posted June 21, 2016 for the June 22, 2015 BOE meeting. THIS is the report that states the \$1.7 million in revenue unexpected was found, it is the one that lists the variances for property taxes, prop C sales tax and the foundation formulas and this is the report that displays the final budgeted revenues and expenses. This is the report I do not see included on the Facebook page link you have posted.

As you can see from my screen shot of the board of education page, that critical FINAL report IS included in the link from the board of education page, but not from the business page, as far as I can see.

Worth mentioning would be to also point the reader to the "*15-16 Budget adjustments 2nd Final*" budget document is where the reader will find the ACTUAL and final 2014-15 revenue and expenditure figures, unless he is directed to the August, 2015 ASBR.

Thanks for your attention to this.

Kim Mumm

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 3:02 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: FW: Board Meeting on 4/11/16

For the communication log

Sarah

Sarah Booth Riss, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Webster Groves School District
314-962-1233

From: Erin Boyle [mailto:boylee@ucpheartland.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 2:21 PM
To: Amy Clendennen
Cc: Board; Sarah Riss; John Simpson; Joel Oliver; Steve Loher; David Addison; Emerson Smith; Jean Dugan; Arnold Stricker; Michael Shipley
Subject: RE: Board Meeting on 4/11/16

Hi Amy,

Thanks so much for your thoughtful and fast response. I wasn't expecting anyone to read my ridiculously long email, much less respond, so quickly!

I am quite sure we agree on much more than we disagree on and I would love to meet you in person and discuss some of these topics. I know that all the board members care immensely about the school district. Otherwise, you wouldn't offer up your time and talents to serve.

By no means, did I mean to imply that only your comments were disappointing to me and made me feel like the school board was a club into which newcomers were not welcomed. As I mentioned, a majority of the board members echoed your comments. It was a majority of the group whose comments I felt were exclusionary, not just what you wrote. I simply addressed your remarks specifically as they were the first thing stated in the farewell comments and each board member then followed along with their thoughts after Dr. Riss read your comments. However, I have to be honest and say that, to me, the beginning part of your comments seemed a bit over the top for the situation.

I have no doubt that it is very tough for current board members to lose a colleague they have worked closely with for years and I completely understand and respect your feelings of loss. I too am a fan of Joel and was disappointed he was not successful in his reelection bid. On a personal note, my 7th grader is on team Unity and Mrs. Oliver is one of her favorite teachers. While I don't know Joel personally, everything I've heard about him has been positive and I'm certain he was a valuable member of the school board during his tenure. I really appreciated Michael's comments at the meeting thanking Joel for acting as a mentor to him in his transition as a member of the board. That made a very positive impression on me and I really respect Joel for

taking a newcomer under his wing and guiding him through his new responsibilities as a member of the board. Bravo Joel and please accept my sincere gratitude for your service to the district!

I will note however, that no board member offered any words of welcome to Mr. Stricker during the meeting. It was only after the conclusion of the meeting, when the meeting was adjourned to eat the cake, that a welcome to Mr. Stricker was articulated, albeit after someone had spoken to Mr. Loher as an aside, that he included the welcome to Mr. Stricker. Mr. Loher's original statement was something like "please enjoy cake as a celebration of Joel and his service". He then went back to the microphone after someone had spoken to him and added "and of course to welcome Mr. Stricker" or something similar. Frankly, it came across as an afterthought.

I'm sorry Amy, that you feel disappointed, that I "chose to attribute unkind intentions to my comments and to share your interpretation with my fellow board members" Originally, my email was only addressed to you, but as I went on writing I decided to address the entire board since I was speaking about my broader impressions of the group as a whole and my feelings of exclusion to newcomers. I am gladdened to hear that you meant no ill will or disrespect to Mr. Stricker or anyone else. I truly believe all of the school board members have the best interests of the students of this district at heart.

Thank you again for your service and taking the time to reply to my email. Have a wonderful day.

Erin

Erin Wheeler Boyle
UCP Heartland
636-779-2253 -ofc
314-265-9960 - cell

From: Amy Clendennen [<mailto:Clendennen.amy@wgmail.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:56 PM
To: Erin Boyle
Cc: Board; Sarah Riss; John Simpson; Joel Oliver
Subject: RE: Board Meeting on 4/11/16

Hello Erin,

I find it necessary to clarify the purpose of the comments I made regarding Joel Oliver. Having seen board members come and go over the past 5 years, I know that the board's tradition at its reorganization meeting is to say a few words about the board member whose service is ending. I was disappointed that I could not attend this meeting to share my thoughts with Joel in person, so I asked Sarah to read my comments. They were intended to let Joel know how much I've valued our working relationship and his many contributions to the district. Joel's departure from the board is, in my mind, a great loss for the district for reasons I won't repeat here. It is also tough, on a personal level, to have to say goodbye to a colleague with whom you have worked closely and productively, through difficult circumstances.

Obviously, I have not worked with Mr. Stricker yet but I have no reason to think he will not be an excellent board member about whom I will make similar comments one day. I honestly believe I have a positive working relationship with everyone else on the board, regardless of whether we agree or disagree from time to time. With regard to asking Joel to keep his yard signs, I want him to run again in the future because he did a great job! It is an extremely time consuming, thankless, job, and it can be hard to find good people with good intentions who are willing to do it. Both Mr. Addison and Mr. Shipley are up for reelection next year, as am I. I assure you I was not encouraging Joel to run against me. I would love nothing more than for David, Michael, and I to run unopposed and not have to spend scarce time and money campaigning.

You covered several other topics and I won't respond point by point. I love that you're coming to board meetings and paying attention to the issues affecting our district. I am disappointed, though, that you chose to attribute unkind intentions to my comments and to share your interpretation with my fellow board members. Fortunately, those who know me will know I meant no ill-will or disrespect toward Mr. Stricker or anyone else. It would be great to meet you and discuss some of these matters in person sometime. I suspect we agree about more than we disagree.

Amy

From: Erin Boyle [boylee@ucpheartland.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 3:40 PM

To: Steve Loher; Amy Clendennen; David Addison; Jean Dugan; Michael Shipley; Emerson Smith; Arnold Stricker

Cc: erinwheelerboyle@yahoo.com

Subject: Board Meeting on 4/11/16

Good afternoon WGSD Board members,

First, thank you so much for giving your time and talent to serve as members of the WGSD School Board. Your willingness to serve is truly admired and appreciated.

I wanted to reach out to you regarding my impressions after attending the School Board meeting last Monday.

Let me start by saying I have made it a point to become more aware of what is going on within the WGSD after the election last year and the defeat of S&W. Monday nights are tough for me to attend School Board meetings as both my kids have sports practices that evening and I haven't figured out how to clone myself yet! ☺ I have however, made it a point to read the minutes from each meeting and have tried to attend as many community meetings (feedback on S&W failure, facilities presentation, PTO meetings, etc.) that my schedule allows. I want to be a well-informed parent and voter on the issues facing the WGSD. (FYI, I'm a parent of a 7th grader at Hixson and a 4th grader at Computer School.) I love the WGSD and both my kids have had mostly great experiences so far in their school careers.

The debate around S&W and the divide it seemed to create in our wonderful community saddened and disturbed me. I really hate that Webster residents, both for and against S&W, were not as careful or as kind with their words on social media and in person as they could have been and I was sad to see that trend carry over into the most recent school board and city council election. The level of vitriol expressed by residents on both sides was frankly embarrassing and something I would not want the children of our district to see or emulate. Everyone supports different ideas, priorities and candidates, it's what makes our government work. And everyone should respect opposing opinions.

Back to Monday . . . In the interest of full disclosure, this was the first School Board meeting I have attended in person. The stars aligned, practice was cancelled, and my oldest agreed to make dinner for my youngest and herself – hooray! Off to the meeting I went. I was a couple of minutes late (maybe a 7:03 arrival) and was surprised to see the board was already a good portion of the way through the agenda. I was under the impression that meetings started at 7PM, but I understand there was a closed session prior to the public meeting. I'm guessing that it ended early so the public meeting started early. I have to admit I was a little disappointed that I missed a portion of the meeting, but, oh well, that's life.

When the part of the agenda regarding farewell comments to Joel Oliver was reached, Dr. Riss read a letter from Amy Clendennen before going around the room and allowing the rest of the board to wish Joel

farewell. I have to confess I was a bit startled by the tone and content of Amy's letter. While I don't have a copy of the letter and my memory can certainly be faulty (I blame my kids for that!), I was left with the impression that Amy was extremely disappointed that Joel had not won re-election (I think her words were something like 'this is the saddest day of my school board tenure') and also encouraging Joel not to put away his yard signs. Having read minutes for the last year, I'm aware that there is one board member who tends to disagree with the majority of the board on many issues. I know this board member is up for re-election next year and the comments felt, to me, like a veiled warning to him that he would be facing opposition. Also, the comments left me with the impression that the board as a whole was not welcoming to the new duly-elected member of the school board.

It's frustrating for me to feel that way. And, while that may not have been the intent, that was the impression that I left having. Most of the board members echoed Amy's sentiments and it made me feel like the school board was a club into which newcomers would not be welcomed. I completely understand the personal disappointment with the results of the school board election. People are absolutely entitled to that opinion. What I do have a problem with is the unwelcoming message those comments projected to any newcomers. This community needs to heal and we look to our leaders to pave the way so that the healing can begin. I don't want to view my school board as a clique of the "cool kids" who treat newcomers like outsiders, but, sadly, that is my current impression.

I want our Webster community to know about the great things that the WGSD does and the true needs it has to be able to continue to educate our children in the very best way possible. I want our leaders to set shining examples on how to respectfully disagree and still come together to compromise and work for the common good. There was a tone, at times, during Monday's meeting that telegraphed disdain or mocking of one school board member. It was sad and I truly feel sorry for this board member. Whether or not other members agree with him, he's entitled to respect from all of the other board members.

I truly hope that the newly formed school board will work together and will respect and listen to all viewpoints. I also hope certain members won't use their position on the board as a bully pulpit as I feel was done leading up to the vote on S & W. In the presentations surrounding S & W, there were 2 school board members in particular, who were very dismissive of any opposing or unsupportive view, or, even of any questions about the plans presented in general. It was clear to me that the board wanted one particular plan, even though there were originally less costly plans presented as options. These 2 board members were condescending and patronizing, especially to Computer School parents. I did not have a positive impression of those 2 board members but I hoped that others on the School Board would prove more inclusive and respectful. After attending last Monday's meeting in person, I'm sorry to say that I'm not convinced the majority of this group intends to be inclusive and open to opposing views.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my thoughts. I know I can be quite verbose and I truly appreciate you taking the time to read my email (book ☺)! If you would like to discuss my comments, feel free to reach me via email or phone.

Please, have a lovely day and thank you again for serving as a member of the School Board. Giving your valuable time for a time-consuming and, I imagine, an often times thankless job is very generous of you and is truly appreciated.

Erin Boyle

P.S. On a slightly different, but related topic. I hope, that if the WGSD is planning to go back to the voters with another request for a tax increase or bond issue, that it will be messaged much differently than it was in 2015. I've heard from several people and feel myself that the tagline "I support Webster Schools" was especially offensive. Using myself as an example I am a past president and vice president of the Computer School PTO, I volunteer for as much as I can at the school, we write checks when asked (teacher gifts, walkathon, meals for parent teacher conference nights, trivia night, etc.), and I have volunteered as very active member of the Computer School trivia night team since my oldest was in Kindergarten (8 years and counting now). But, in spite of all that, according to the "Yes on S & W" crew, I don't support Webster Schools unless I vote for a tax increase? Do you see how that can be viewed as offensive?

Erin Wheeler Boyle
Assistant Director of Development & Marketing
United Cerebral Palsy Heartland
13975 Manchester Road
Ballwin, MO 63011
(636) 779-2253 - direct dial
(314) 265-9960 - cell
(636) 779-2270 - fax
BoyleE@ucpheartland.org

11

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:11 PM
To: Lori Medlin
Subject: Fwd: last board meeting

For the communication log
Thanks
Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: gail gullickson <gailgull@yahoo.com>
Date: April 21, 2016 at 5:13:15 PM CDT
To: "gailgull@yahoo.com" <gailgull@yahoo.com>, Amy Clendennen <Clendennen.amy@wgmail.org>
Cc: Board <Board@wgmail.org>, Sarah Riss <Riss.Sarah@wgmail.org>, John Simpson <Simpson.John@wgmail.org>, Joel Oliver <joeloliver777@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: last board meeting
Reply-To: gail gullickson <gailgull@yahoo.com>

Amy, I would love to meet over a cup of coffee. Sorry you interpreted me as being mean-spirited. I am nothing but. I was completely wrong, however to assume that you weren't there because of the statement in your letter. I still think that your first sentence that read something like this, "This is the worst moment of my time on the board," left us all thinking it was welcoming to the new-comer and shouldn't have been read, but maybe said in private.

I'm sorry that I assumed wrong about your absence...I reacted to emotion and didn't think properly when I gathered those thoughts.
I'm sure you do the best you can serving a difficult role. I myself could not find the huge amount of time it takes to serve and I commend you for doing so. It takes a special kind of person to put themselves out there like you do.

Let me know when you want to do coffee and I'll tell you how I think the district could improve.

Sincerely,
Gail

On Thu, 4/21/16, Amy Clendennen <Clendennen.amy@wgmail.org> wrote:

Subject: RE: last board meeting
To: "gailgull@yahoo.com" <gailgull@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Board" <Board@wgmail.org>, "Sarah Riss" <Riss.Sarah@wgmail.org>, "John Simpson" <Simpson.John@wgmail.org>, "Joel Oliver" <joeloliver777@yahoo.com>
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016, 9:26 AM

Gail,

My comments, shared by Dr. Riss at the last meeting, were intended to let Mr. Oliver know how much I've valued our working relationship and his many contributions to the district. It is a tradition for board members to share such comments at the reorganization meeting, when a member is leaving the board. Mr. Oliver was an outstanding board member who always had the best interest of kids at heart. I was extremely disappointed not to be able to share my thoughts in person. I would have also enjoyed meeting and welcoming Mr. Stricker, with whom I look forward to working. Unfortunately, I was in Boston that week, where I attended the annual conference of the National Council of School Attorneys.

If you knew anything about me you would know that I dedicate the majority of my time to working for schools, both in my professional life and as a volunteer. To say I could "not be bothered" to attend a meeting and to state that my absence was "unprofessional" is wholly inconsistent with my practice and reputation. It also came across as very mean-spirited, which is hard for me to understand, considering that you and I have never met.

If you would care to meet in person sometime I'd be happy to have a cup of coffee with you and discuss some of your concerns.

Amy Clendennen

From:

[gail gullickson \[gailgull@yahoo.com\]](mailto:gailgullickson@gailgull@yahoo.com)

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 6:04 AM

To: Steve Loher; Amy Clendennen; David Addison;

Jean Dugan; Michael Shipley; Emerson Smith; Arnold Stricker;

Sarah Riss; John Simpson

Subject: last board meeting

Hello all,

I attended the last board meeting and was quite surprised at the level of unprofessionalism I witnessed. The discussion regarding providing transparency was sloppy and it seemed no one knew the proper way to move forward. I'm not sure why you would be opposed to providing transparency if you can find an affordable way to do so. The reasons apposed were full of holes.

Secondly, I was completely shocked when I heard the superintendent of schools read a letter from the board member who couldn't even bother to come to the meeting because she was so upset that her friend was pushed out by the new guy Arnold. To hear her unprofessional words read aloud by the superintendent of schools sent a very big message to me. This district needs help. This district does not have the professionalism it should have.

Sincerely,

Gail Gullickson

Lori Medlin

From: Sarah Riss
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Board; John Simpson; Lori Medlin
Subject: Fwd: Last night's BOE meeting, Facebook commenting and a suggestion

Please see my response below.

Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sarah Riss <Riss.Sarah@wgmail.org>
Date: April 26, 2016 at 6:08:13 PM CDT
To: Erin Boyle <boylee@ucpheartland.org>
Subject: Re: Last night's BOE meeting, Facebook commenting and a suggestion

Erin,

Thank you for your kind words and great ideas. I love the idea of the informal gatherings and am only sorry that I will not be here to make it a reality. Your offer to help get positive interactions started is generous and valued. Maybe we can even have one before I leave in June.

Thank you for your positive suggestions and offer of support. People like you make our community and school district great!

Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2016, at 5:42 PM, Erin Boyle <boylee@ucpheartland.org> wrote:

Good afternoon!

I wanted to write and let you know that I was impressed with the way the kerfuffle regarding the WKT letter and the subsequent Facebook postings were handled at last night's meeting. It always resonates with me when people take responsibility for their actions, admit their mistakes and apologize. I truly admire and appreciate Steve's and Sarah's statements.

I reached out via a message to the district's FB page on Friday to inquire why I could see some but not all of the comments on the WGSD's Facebook page. I got a perfectly lovely response which invited me to call Cathy if I had any other questions. I did and Cathy and I had a very pleasant conversation. I offered to help research a way for comments to be blocked on the FB page. Cathy welcomed any help I could offer and I was able to do a bit of research which I emailed to her. While the research I provided did not do exactly what we hoped, it has, according to Cathy, made things easier for the WGSD to monitor and I am so glad to have been able to be of assistance. (I'm still researching how to solve

the commenting issue more fully – it's quite annoying that Facebook doesn't offer disallowing comments as an option!) I have found it frustrating to listen to the same handful of voices on social media representing and debating both sides of issues facing the WGSD. It's not usually a productive use of time, nothing valuable seems to be accomplished, and frequently it turns into name calling and personal attacks as happened over the weekend. Which leads into my suggestion . . .

I would like to suggest that the board consider having 'coffee with the school board' or (more fun!) 'beer with the board' sessions once a month (or every other month, quarterly, etc). It would be nice to have a forum where informal interaction between the board and district residents was possible. A setting where there is a true ability for give and take and productive, polite discussion. I would imagine that it's challenging for residents to feel heard at board meetings since there is not a facility for the board to respond to comments, nor do I believe that is the appropriate setting for the board to respond. Maybe you could rotate it through the district, have it at area schools some months, have it at a local restaurant another month, vary the times so it's accessible for both working and stay at home parents, etc. Heck, you could even invite some food trucks to be there some months and ask them to kick back a percentage of sales to the WGSD Foundation – fundraiser and face time with the public all in one – a win-win! If the board wants to consider this idea further, I would be happy to volunteer to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your service to the WGSD. I hope all of you have a wonderful week.

Erin

Erin Wheeler Boyle
Assistant Director, Development and Marketing
United Cerebral Palsy Heartland
13975 Manchester Road
Ballwin, MO 63011
(636) 779-2253 - direct dial
(314) 265-9960 - cell
(636) 779-2270 - fax
BoyleE@ucpheartland.org

Lori Medlin

From: Ginger Krueger <kruegerice@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 5:20 PM
To: Amy Clendennen; Steve Loher; David Addison; Michael Shipley; Emerson Smith; Arnold Stricker; Lori Medlin; Jean Dugan
Subject: Honest Concern

First I want to thank you for your time and your service! Your jobs are not easy and often thankless!

The WGSD-BOE has had the need to apologize or explain away more than once over the past months either for the "mistakes of trusted staff" or for "sharing or reporting of incomplete information - mistakingly" and this distresses me.

Is this perhaps because in the past the BOE members could trust that they were getting good information from those who provide it? - I don't know if that is the issue or when that changed or if they all along should not have given that trust; but certainly over the past year - it seems to me that the ability of the BOE to rely on accurate information being provided and therefore reported, has been put to the test and failed more than once.

I have no ax to grind - I'm a true believer in public education and ❤️❤️ the WGSD with every corner of my soul - but I believe the time has come for the BOE to start fact checking - and double checking. You are not paid to do this - you give of your time and expertise to be able to make decisions with the information provided; but whoever the person(s) are who are paid to provide your information - it seems that they are failing you too often lately! You can no longer believe what you are "told". You must question those who serve you and demand nothing less than excellence and success - as community members, as parents and as individuals in whom the public has placed their valuable trust - it is your role as BOE members to now question, investigate, and know for sure that your provided information is correct, accurate and up to date.

In addition, if you find too many inaccuracies or "honest mistakes" - at what point is it time to re-group and find someone(s) new in whom you CAN trust explicitly and without fail??

Transparency and accuracy go hand in hand. Too many white-washed and

glossed over honest mistakes, breeds mistrust for those who observe the BOE apologizing and yet allowing these inaccuracies to continue. I actually heard someone say the other day about a BOE member - "They are either lying - or stupid!" I believe it's neither - but instead too trusting of those who are paid to provide you as a group with truthful and accurate information. You are the body who has been elected to ensure that inaccuracies are rare, that the public can trust in you and in the staff you rely upon to make good sound decisions for our children based upon good sound information. I ask that you consider carefully and create a culture in which you accurately and virtually without fail know your decisions moving forward are based upon true and accurate information.

Respectfully and with regards,

Ginger Krueger

Sent from my iPhone

Ginger Krueger

Sent from my iPhone