



Michael Clara <donmiguelslc@gmail.com>

Re: Independent Investigation

1 message

Michael Clára <donmiguelslc@gmail.com>
To: Kristi Swett <Kristi.Swett@slcschools.org>
Bcc: Michael Clara <donmiguelslc@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 17, 2014 at 3:11 PM

Dear Kristi,

I am pleased to hear we will move forward with an independent investigation. I would suggest that this investigation be initiated by the board of education and not the superintendent of business administrator.

In order for this investigation to truly be independent and maintain the integrity that it deserves the board of education should set the perimeters with Squire and Company, if that is the company you are choosing to use. Once the investigation is completed they should report directly to the board and not filter this through the school district bureaucracy.

My trepidation in allowing the bureaucracy to be involved in this independent investigation and in using Squire & Co. stems in part from the paper work I received in response to my GRAMA request about the West High School audit. As you are aware, we were given a public version of the audit and a protected version.

In referring to the public version, I draw your attention to page two of that document. It is an email from Dave Brown of Squire & Co. to Alan Kearsley. In this email they discuss the "agreed-upon procedure" for the audit.

On page 7 of that document, a Timothy Keller of Squire & Co. sends an email to Parley Jacob (principal at West High) who was a subject of this investigation. Keller is asking Jacobs to review the report before he passes it on to the district.

On page 29 of the publicly released audit, there is a letter dated June 18, 2013 - it is addressed to the Board of Education and is from Squire & Company. It is signed by the business administrator as receiving and reviewing the letter -yet she never passed it on to the board of education.

I would call into question the integrity of that audit. I don't want to waste tax payer dollars on an audit that is looking into the actions of the Child Nutrition Department if the people running that department are going to set the parameters

of the investigation or members of that department are given the opportunity to approve the results of the audit prior to it reaching the board of education. That would just put right back to the situation we currently find ourselves in.

I also believe that the results of this audit report should be presented to the board at its conclusion and the board should be allowed to vote on accepting the report. The board was not given that opportunity when Kelly Orton presented his initial report to the board on February 4, 2014.

Un abrazo,

Michael Clára

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Board Member, District 2

On Sun, Feb 16, 2014 at 10:27 AM, Kristi Swett <Kristi.Swett@slcschools.org> wrote:

Dear Fellow Board Members:

Given the continued interest and concerns regarding the events that occurred on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, in the Uintah Elementary school cafeteria, I strongly believe that the public requires further reassurance that the district has acted appropriately in investigating this matter. Questions still remain regarding who or what was responsible for this situation, and what actions should be taken as a result of that determination. Therefore, after careful deliberation, I have decided to exercise my authority as board president to initiate an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding this event.

I have complete faith that district leaders have been forthcoming and honest in their response to and investigation of this matter. Nonetheless, having that belief tested by an independent entity will serve to repair the public's trust in the district's integrity and commitment to its students.

Because the board has approved Squire & Company as an appropriate independent entity to perform other audits within the district, utilizing the services of this company is the most expeditious and logical choice. I am sure we can all agree that the district can only benefit from having this matter resolved in a timely manner. My decision to request the audit are informed by conversations and correspondence with two other board members, the superintendent, and several community leaders.

I hope you will all support me in initiating this investigation, but do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this approach.

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Kristi

Kristi Swett  
President  
Salt Lake City Board of Education  
Precinct 7

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