



Michael Clara <donmiguelslc@gmail.com>

Re: FW: GRAMA Response case SL14-37341

1 message

Michael Clára <donmiguelslc@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 5, 2014 at 10:19 AM

To: McKell Withers <McKell.Withers@slcschools.org>

Cc: Britta Barney <Britta.Barney@slcschools.org>, "Douglas Nelson (doug@mdxperts.com)"

<doug@mdxperts.com>, Heather Bennett <Heather.Bennett@slcschools.org>, Janet Roberts

<Janet.Roberts@slcschools.org>, Kristi Swett <Kristi.Swett@slcschools.org>, Laurel Young

<Laurel.Young@slcschools.org>, Rosemary Emery <rosemary.emery2@gmail.com>, Tiffany Sandberg

<Tiffany.Sandberg@slcschools.org>, Kristina Kindl <Kristina.Kindl@slcschools.org>, "Joan M. Andrews

(jandrews@fabianlaw.com)" <jandrews@fabianlaw.com>, Jason Olsen <Jason.Olsen@slcschools.org>, Allison

Sisam <Allison.Sisam@slcschools.org>, Craig Ruesch <Craig.Ruesch@slcschools.org>, Katie Haslam

<Katie.Haslam@slcschools.org>, Lisa Alleman <Lisa.Alleman@slcschools.org>, Patrick Garcia

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Bcc: Michael Clara <donmiguelslc@gmail.com>

McKell,

I appreciate you sending me a copy of this police report. It is, as the saying goes “a day late and a dollar short”.

You should have provided this information to members of the school board back in July when the District Attorney’s office declined to prosecute and the police closed out the case.

As it stands, this report has been posted on my blog for the past two weeks and has been the subject two newspaper articles. So this is not new information for me and many others.

In your email, are you referring to me in this statement?:

“Since public comments have been made about the status of the investigation and the contents of the report by a member of our board of education that do not accurately reflect the contents of the report...”

If so, my statements have been the result of constituents asking me questions. I have in turn sought to obtain answers to those questions via email and letters to you and the school board president with negative results.

In the absence of answers from the two of you, I have had to piece together responses through GRAMA and other methods of inquiry.

If you don't like what I am saying, then why don't you and the school board president respond to my questions?

You can't hide from my questions and then turn around and complain with the quality of answers. Answers I might add, I am forced to obtain through other means.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by this statement in your email:

“There is a considerable amount of additional evidence that has been collected since the SLCPD conducted their initial investigation. This information will be turned over as requested, which may cause the District Attorney to revisit this matter.”

How can that be? As you are aware, at the March 4, 2014, Board meeting you and Janet were instructed to hire the external accounting firm, Squire & Company to review the financial activities at Uintah Elementary School Lunchroom.

The minutes of that school board meeting reflect the following:

“...consensus was made in light of the feelings of distrust, questions that have been raised, and issues surfaced as a result of the [internal] investigation, that an outside investigation would provide validity to the findings”.

As a member of the School Board, it was my expectation (also publicly declared by the school board president) that your administration was going to hand over all evidence and paperwork to Squire & Co. and the external investigator Ostler. They in turn were to conduct an independent investigation etc. etc...etc...

I find it odd, now that the two external investigations are concluded you are now claiming that “additional evidence” is just now surfacing. Really?

Did the two external investigations conclude prematurely?

Did the school board just waste close to \$80,000.00 on two external investigations that missed vital evidence?

If so, how did these two external investigations overlook this so called evidence?

Moreover, if the school board expressed “feelings of distrust” with your administration at the March 4, 2014, School Board meeting, what has changed since then that would cause us to now trust the actions or conclusions of your administration?

Or for that matter, trust any evidence that it now being produced by your administration?

It is frustrating to me, that you continue to ignore the central question of this entire fiasco: Where is the accountability for those on the district level responsible for this debacle?

That is the outstanding question even to this day. I would admonish you to take all of the time and energy that you continue to expend, discrediting Miss Shirley, and put that energy into accepting responsibility for what occurred.

If you did that, I can assure you that this situation would reach a satisfactory conclusion and everyone could, as it were, "move-on".

Along with accepting responsibility, would be the commitment to implement corrective action at the district level. If not, I predict your administration is doomed to repeat the same mistakes and blunders only to waste more taxpayer dollars on the next stunt.

In my eyes, from an organizational standpoint, Miss Shirley is the least culpable person in this farce, yet you and your administration continue to be fixated on damaging her reputation. Hasn't this poor woman suffered enough injustices at your hands?

It is disappointing to me, that even at this late date, you and Janet Roberts continue to scurry around, hunting for new ways to demonize Miss Shirley.

By way of illustration, in my latest GRAMA request to the school district, I saw an email dated September 4, 2014, where Janet is sending the Salt Lake City Police Department, Miss Shirley's personal bank account numbers. Is that even legal? How can the school district send personal banking information to the police without a warrant or subpoena?

Again, the question of the day: Where is the district level accountability?

Un abrazo,

Michael Clára

801-205-0389

Board Member, District 2

On Fri, Oct 3, 2014 at 4:09 PM, McKell Withers <McKell.Withers@slcschools.org> wrote:

Hi Everyone,

Earlier this week, Jason received the attached copy of the SLCPD Police Report for case #SL14-37341 concerning Shirley Canham (SL-14-37341.pdf) and a cover letter from Suzette Sullivan (0463 001.pdf). Since public comments have been made about the status of the investigation and the contents of the report by a member of our board of education that do not accurately reflect the contents of the report, the whole report is being forwarded to you.

As you read through the report you should note the following statements made by the District Attorney's Office:

- "This office would be more than happy to revisit this matter if further information is developed..." (page 2 of 14)
- "The evidence shows that Ms. Canham misallocated funds into different students' accounts, but does not show to a sufficient degree that Ms. Canham took funds for her use." (page 2 of 14)

Also of significance is SLCPD Investigator Kory Olsen's contact with various victims in which the victims indicated that they "did not authorize" any money to go into any other student's account (page 7 of 14). He also reported:

- "I contacted Suspect Canham at Uintah Elementary. I informed her that I wanted to speak with her regarding the lunch records and her involvement. She agreed to come to the police station and speak with me and Sgt. Christensen. Approx. 35 minutes later, we met with her at the SLCPD station located at 475 S 300 E. She brought her union president with her for the interview." (page 8 of 14)
- Was the "Complainant/Victim notified" that the case was "Cleared Exceptionally – Prosecution Declined" at this time ... "NO" (page 13 of 14).

There is a considerable amount of additional evidence that has been collected since the SLCPD conducted their initial investigation. This information will be turned over as requested, which may cause the District Attorney to revisit this matter.

I hope this additional information is helpful to you. For your reference, I have left the original email information from the SLCPD to Jason at the bottom of this page.

McKell

From: <Sullivan>, Suzette <Suzette.Sullivan@slcgov.com>
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 3:07 PM
To: Jason Olsen <Jason.Olsen@slcschools.org>
Subject: GRAMA Response case SL14-37341

Please see the attached letter and report.

Sincerely,

Suzette Sullivan

Service Window Supervisor

Salt Lake City Police Department

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