
EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit 14
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Epping, NH 03042



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April 25, 2011

Representative Paul Ingbretson
Chairman, House Committee on Redress of Grievances
Post Office Box 296
Pike, NH 03780-3092

Re: 2011 Hearing on Petition No. 4

Dear Representative Ingbretson:

Thank you for the notice of a public hearing concerning Petition No. 4.

The petition for redress of grievances that I received makes accusations concerning the response of the Epping School administration and the Epping Police Department to a personnel matter concerning alleged comments made by an Epping school staff member to an adult student at Epping High School. As you, and the committee members know, the District's administration is prevented by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act from discussing or revealing any information concerning student records. The District is also barred by the privacy rights of its employees, which are recognized by the legislature in the Right-to-Know Law, from discussing confidential personnel matters. As a result, the District's administration cannot publicly respond factually to the allegations stated in Petition No. 4 other than to say that there are two sides to every story, which is precisely why disputes such as this are ill-suited for consideration by this body.

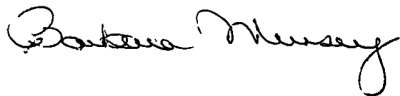
All the District and the administration can state at this time is that we vehemently deny the allegations contained in Petition No. 4. Further, the administration and the District wish to advise the committee that the administration took this matter very seriously, investigated it thoroughly, cooperated

The mission of the Epping School District is to focus on the potential of every student and engage them to be passionate, confident learners who demonstrate competence and have strength of character to reach their highest aspirations and thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world.

fully with the police department's investigation and then the District reviewed its response to the matter with officials at the Department of Education. The District's administration has responded appropriately to the facts of this case and stands by its actions. Unfortunately, the administration cannot respond in any further detail to Petition No. 4.

Finally, we ask that you carefully consider your jurisdiction to hear such matters. For almost 200 years it has been well recognized that the Legislature's jurisdiction is to redress public not private grievances. Public grievances can be addressed by laws and private grievances should not be addressed by legislative proceedings, which are by nature, judgments of the rights of individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Munsey".

Barbara Munsey, Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Representative William O'Brien, Speaker of the House
Members of the Committee on Redress of Grievances