

Hello,

I'm Melissa Hatter. I would like to thank each of you for giving me a moment of your valuable time. I appreciate and thank you all for your hard work and dedication. I come before you today as a community member, business owner, former Athletic Booster Club Secretary and most importantly as a Mother.

I'm here today to seek your help and explain the need for recourse a parent can seek when 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school board, 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board, 1001.32 Supplemental powers and duties of district school board Supplemental powers and duties of district school board, 6A-10.081 Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, 1001.51, F.S.; Duties and responsibilities of district school superintendent, 1012.795, F.S.; Education Practices Commission; authority to discipline, 1012.796, F.S.; Complaints against teachers and administrators, are violated many times over and resolution can't be obtained at a District level. I thought the Department of Education would be the next logical place to turn, I was wrong, they said it was a District matter to be handled by the district. The OCR directed me back to the DOE, who again directed me back to the District who again failed to act.

There is a desperate need for accountability and oversight of compliance with Florida Statutes, DOE and Board policies. The School Board states they can not address the retaliation as it is staffing issues which are to be handled by the Superintendent. Leaving things at that. We need laws that clearly depict who the Superintendent is accountable to and enforces the compliance of the Superintendent and of his enforcement of staff compliance.

Another cheer mom and I wanted to raise funds to help the cheerleaders offset the associated costs. Long story short, this led to becoming Booster members. Her husband became a board member as did I eventually. The bylaws required the Secretary to maintain custody of the Organization's records. Over a hundred attempts and 7 months later I was only successful in obtaining partial records for the 2019-2020 school year. From the records acquired I discovered a plethora of transactions without the required board approval and/or proper receipts. I submitted the detailed list to the Principal on July 1st, 2020, requesting an immediate audit and investigation while removing the 3 implicated parties from the account and relieving them of their duties until a conclusion of the investigation and audit. This resulted in the Principal stating that on the directives of the district and district's legal advisors, she was demanding the dissolution of the Booster Club, was instructed to only work with the 3 implicated parties, one of which is a employee at my sons school all without conducting the requested audit and/or investigation. Then the Principal unjustifiably seized the nonprofits records and assets despite multiple objections from a Board member, who repeatedly showed the district

guidelines depicting that was beyond a Principal's scope of authority over an incorporated entity. I asked the District, including the Superintendent to intervene several times. When those pleas fell on deaf ears I sought help from the School Board, all to no avail.

Retaliation began against my and other board members and booster member and our children immediately after submitting the complaint in July. The Superintendent and School Board allowed the retaliation to continue, saying it would be addressed after the audit by the Internal auditor, whom I vehemently objected to an internal audit considering the Principal stated the course of action was the District's recommendations. The "audit" omitted several items reported including fraudulent state filings that the District was provided indisputable evidence of, numerous inaccuracies, false statements and findings were based solely on opinions rather than the evidence. I received a letter dismissing 3 retaliation claims for lack of sufficient evidence found in the investigations. These investigations were mere fabrication and I provided the School Board with evidence showing the investigations did not occur as the Superintendent claimed.

The following are issues of immediate concerns:

- 1). Allowing months of retaliation against students and families by district employees. Prioritizing financial matters above the well-being of students and parents.
- 2). Superintendent not holding his staff accountable for falsifying audits & investigations
- 3). Misappropriation of funds. Internal accounts warrant an audit as well.
- 4). 2 Fraudulent Dissolutions filed with the State - Falsifying votes and meetings
- 5). Tax Fraud including Principal, allowed donation solicitations on school letterhead using a revoked EIN.
- 6). Principal accepting M678 w/checklist, knowing it was fraudulent for 5-6 years and aware taxes not filed 2014-2019.
- 7). Administration cover up including an AP, AD, and Principal along with a District Employee
- 8). Internal Account (Cheer) Audit — Fraud
- 9). Principal was aware the nonprofit was soliciting donations 2016-2019 with a revoked corporate status on school letterhead.
- 10). Documentation of Booster President, former Treasurer of Athletic Booster Club 2014-2019 admission of she not maintain itemized financial records in previous years.
- 11). Inconsistent and Incomplete Financial Reports provided by Treasurer
- 12). Superintendent failures to abide by the principals of professional conduct and/or to report violations of such by district employees.
- 13). Several documented policies fabricated by the principal.

The State has Statutes addressing these issues but no agency a parent or community member can go to for compliance and transparency.

If any of you are interested in viewing documentation supporting my concerns I would be happy to provide upon request.

**Thank you all for your time and consideration.**