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Cc: fran bisi; JoAnn Orischak; Tricia Fidrych; Christina Gwozdz; Rachel Wisnefski; Melvin Campbell; William Smith; David Strebinger; Cathy Robine; Richard Geier; Earl Campbell; john dowling; Richard Bisi; Windrunnerstables Info; Rick Caporale; Joan Deery; Herbert M. Berg; Liz Farrell; gleasonmj@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Other peoples money

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From: Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:23 AM
To: Dowling, John R
Cc: Mike Gleason; Orischak, Josephine A; jerry at the beach; fran bisi; Fidrych, Patricia; Gwozdz, Christina S; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Campbell, Melvin P; Smith, William C; Striebinger, David R; Robine, Cathy G; Geier, Richard P; Campbell, Earl; Richard Bisi; Windrunnerstables Info; Rick Caporale; Joan Deery; Berg, Herbert M; Liz Farrell
Subject: Re: Finance Committee Scope (Transparency Reports)

John: Bingo: thanks for that two cents.it <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fcents.it&c=E,1,jR9_djEttrWWy3Rf54zdBMgPzwyy5ITdGHAF6Q75tEbf0NVcljbTvdMEKBKclLibD8eIwliPceKbZYx4CwbnWWjJqqZaExevvSYixiOn6Jb5XdikY6RNViKlmg,,&typo=1> is exactly what my point of conversation is. What is being done To prevent fraud, not catch it after the fact.
The impression is that employees just charge and finance just pays it. There must be budget constraints and guidelines for each cardholder to follow for spending. Is there any board oversight policy pertaining to this?
Am I right or am I wrong ?
Lyn
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2019, at 6:25 AM, Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> > wrote:

For what it's worth: Every presentation that I've seen about internal controls seems to be weighted towards spotting fraud that has already happened, rather than preventing fraud from occurring.....and, especially in the case of one of our bookkeepers, that doesn't always work out so well. I keep hearing, "we have a wonderful staff, and they work very hard". That's true on both counts, but I still believe that a centralized procurement (with an updated Procurement Code) would go a long way towards lessening the opportunity for fraud or misuse to occur.

The level that a Finance Committee has to reach into the Financial Operations to assume a comfort level really depends on the District. That evaluation should be made by someone who knows the District well, with all its ins and outs. Especially in this District, there's no book for that, it comes from having been here and having seen it all.

Just my two cents.....

JOHN DOWLING
DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 11, 2019, at 5:10 AM, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> > wrote:

JoAnn: thanks for your email. While I can understand the board finance committee not reviewing each P Charge transaction because of possibly getting into second guessing judgments of what has been charged, I don't think it's the school board committees personal responsibility to catch fraud - but to make sure there is tight internal oversight . to eliminate or catch fraud. Nor do I think it's the public's responsibility to catch fraud.

How many P Charge transactions occur each month and who validates their authenticity? What exactly is the internal check and balance process?

While making it easier for the public to question and attain financial P Charge spending information is a good thing, more transparent on-line postings would also be more helpful than the current somewhat generic statements that brings out the publics curiosity.

I can tell you that having 50 plus charge cards used by different school personnel and the past attention to their misuse (even the rebate illegal warehouse building) does not instill public confidence in efficient P Charge spending and oversight. It still is a no confidence financial subject for the public, just ask anyone you know what their opinion is on this situation,

Regards,
Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2019, at 12:11 AM, Mike Gleason <gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> > wrote:

"At our first FC meeting, the committee agreed to not dissect the monthly Transparency Report by transaction. Dick Geier, committee vice-chair and liaison to the County, communicated very specific opinions on this, which ultimately drew consensus."

WoW! Please specify what specific fraud detection methodology and metrics the FC uses on a monthly basis, or is that micromanaging the CFO? Like Berkeley County's CFO Brantley Denmark Thomas III, now doing 62 months in prison. Colonel Geier, if the Pentagon spends $10,000 per toilet seat at what time and how does that cause an investigation before the next scandal?

Sending money to individual PayPal and Amazon accounts invites fraud. Why not pay for Bitcoin currency while we are so verrry trusting? Lack of vendor management is a huge money loser.

Why have a Finance Committee at all when rubber stamps are available? Meeting stipends?

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/berkeley-schools-cfo-who-embezzled-million-sentenced-to-months-in/article_c6ab085e-347b-11e9-a3c4-fb69aba546dc.html
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Thanks for listening.

Mike Gleason

On Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 5:45 PM Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> > wrote:

Jerry/All,

The Finance Committee's scope (which was approved by the full Board) includes, "Review of the BCSD Procurement Card Program controls". (Controls being the operative word here.) At our first FC meeting, the committee agreed to not dissect the monthly Transparency Report by transaction. Dick Geier, committee vice-chair and liaison to the County, communicated very specific opinions on this, which ultimately drew consensus.

The good news: the Finance Committee also added as part of its scope the following:

"Additionally, the Finance Committee will review information requests from constituents which do not require a formal FOIA request for document production."

So keep the cards and letters coming folks. All questions are welcomed.

Please bear in mind that these FC scope guidelines don't preclude Board members from raising specific Transparency Report transaction questions. However, he FC is not currently charged with review. My best guess (?) is that any/all Board inquiries will be presented to the full Boad and/or Tonya Crosby directly.

Regards,

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

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It's amazing to me that a smart citizen can visually scan and discover financial mistakes- while in-house employees overlook them. What's wrong with this situation and how long has this been going on.

Board Member oversight needs to be

overhauled on this. Old habits need correcting.

If it's easy to get away with money non scrutiny -someone will take advantage of this- that's for sure. This new school board has many oversight challenges to solve. Probably more than any of them realized.

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2019, at 11:22 AM, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

Speaking of checks and balances, on March 29th, I sent the following message to Tonya Crosby:

Please explain the following charges listed under Maintenance February Billing Statement. These charges appear on the February Transparency Report as being charged to the District Office-General Fund.

5533 TXN00241012 02/25/2019 02/24/2019 $21.95 PAYPAL GRRMX LLC

5533 TXN00241064 02/25/2019 02/24/2019 $35.98 PAYPAL BLACKGOLDIM

5533 TXN00240956 02/25/2019 02/24/2019 $25.60 PAYPAL KRANKYS NET

8999 TXN00240981 02/25/2019 02/24/2019 $28.95 PAYPAL SPEAKEASYMO

5533 TXN00240313 02/15/2019 02/14/2019 $109.24 PAYPAL LKQ ONLINE

The explanations are vague, but I'm sure you will be able to clarify further.

thank you

Ms. Crosby replied that these were all "erroneous" charges even though they did not appear at the end of the report as "fraudulent". One needs to ask how they were approved by a bookkeeper in the first place and were the goods delivered to someone in the District?

Ms. Crosby has been quoted as saying that hackers are getting more sophisticated. Why would a sophisticated hacker waste his time on these petty items? If the District is aware of these hackers, why have 50+ cards available throughout the county waiting to be hacked?

In my opinion, these are inside purchases that are allowed to be made with no consequence. The feeling must be, since the Bank of America covers whatever the District claims to be "erroneous", why bother to investigate.

There needs to be a change in the B of A credit card procedures. One card and one person is all that is needed to oversee these purchases. Whenever a purchase is made, it would go through this one step with great scrutiny. As the District's Bookkeeper Manual states: K.I.S.S.(Keep it Simple, Stupid!).

I found the above suspicious charges after a quick look at the February reports. How many other charges have been overlooked? In February alone there were almost 500 Amazon purchases. How many of these were purchased fraudulently? How many were frivolous purchases that wouldn't have been made if a credit card weren't handy? Would a lot of these purchases not have been made if the transaction had to go through the one person in charge?

Let us hope the 'new board' employs the level of fiscal oversight the taxpayers deserve, and not leave the oversight to private citizens. That also

includes doing a thorough review of the budget before it is approved. Let's put an end to the Moss era of trust but not verify.

fran

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 9:11:46 AM EDT, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> > wrote:

Yes, the financial checks and balances regarding business expenses reimbursement were sorely lacking as evidenced by this State Ethics Commission review now taking place.

The previous Moss Majority school board members were grossly unqualified to supervise their only employee and he took advantage of that situation.

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2019, at 8:55 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> > wrote:

In my opinion, Moss' employer the school board should have picked up on these questionable expenses BEFORE they became an issue for SC ethics committee review. Board leadership during the time-frame in question should be held equally responsible . Let us hope the 'new board' employs the level of fiscal oversight the taxpayers deserve.

Jerry

On Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 9:01:28 AM EDT, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> > wrote:

PS. On another note - not surprised
by another ethics violation filed against former Supt for reimbursed expenses. Egregious? Another slap on the wrist? What exactly can they
Impose on him now?
Don't have much faith in the SC ethics reviews, especially dealing with violations in the public education sector.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2019, at 8:31 AM, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> > wrote:

This article doesn't really tell the public much regarding the two supt
finalists. I'm sure more info will be forthcoming.
I have been told that Dr. Berg was an interim Supt in Lexington for 3 years,
so if either of these candidates don't meet finalist public interview exposure expectations or should withdraw leaving the board with a decision forced on them that is not unanimously supported - I would hope Dr. Berg would stay on for another year. He's a strong leader that I support.
Lyn Piwko Bullard

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2019, at 7:30 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> > wrote:

Beaufort Co. school board names its top 2 finalists in search fc new superintendent