

April 9, 2025

Yesterday, I traveled to and from Montgomery to testify for two minutes before the Senators of the Municipal and County Government Committee. I was grateful for the opportunity and would do it again upon request.

It is incredibly frustrating to hear people publicly testify as to what we allegedly agreed to in the separation negotiations over 6 years ago. What's even more disturbing is that misleading recollections of the separation agreement are being accepted as Gospel.

I attended every negotiation session and meeting for approximately a year and a half. My signature rests atop the final agreement. I can assure you that we NEVER agreed to relinquish our right to this disputed tax! What we did agree upon was to disagree. I have a copy of a letter written in 2019 from the BCBE attorney to the State Superintendent making Dr. Eric Mackey aware of the tax dispute.

It was the BCBE that recommended the matter be litigated after the separation. Now we are being ridiculed for having done just that. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled it was not the court's place to reapportion the funds equitably. That is the duty of the legislature! That's where we are today.

In a statement just released, Superintendent Eddie Tyler condemned the senate committee proceedings that occurred yesterday and stated that BCBE would not allow the actions of the committee to "...harm public schools across Baldwin County." Gulf Shores and Orange Beach are both IN Baldwin County! Orange Beach City Schools and Gulf Shores City Schools ARE public schools!

I would politely recommend that the three (3) senators and seven (7) representatives that form our local legislative delegation poll their constituents asking one simple question:

"Would you support a sales tax to be collected in your area for the benefit of public schools that does not support the public schools in your area?"

No names, no cities, no rhetoric, just one simple question. I am confident the results would be a resounding "NO".

Kevin S. Corcoran
President
Gulf Shores City Schools