

August 28th, 2014

This letter of censure is written for Mrs. Donna Green at the request of the Timberlane Regional School Board (TRSB).

At its July 16th 2014 **meeting**, the TRSB voted to censure Mrs. Green, a Sandown representative on the Board, because her actions have undermined the integrity and credibility of the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) and eroded the trust between TRSD and the community.

Evidence for this censure is as follows:

1. Since her election to the TRSB in March 2014, Mrs. Green has made over sixty statements on her blog that are either taken out of context, misinformation, inaccurate, disrespectful and/or inappropriate. Twenty of these statements are egregious. Below are the topics and dates of those twenty (see Appendix A):

- a. April 8th, May 27th & June 18th – Communication/Information
- b. April 11th, June 20th, June 29th & July 13th – Surplus/HealthTrust Refund
- c. April 18th, May 14th, June 11th – Policy
- d. May 14th – High School of the Year award
- e. May 20th – Agenda
- f. May 20th & July 7th – Town of Sandown
- g. June 27th – SAU Board
- h. July 4th – Budget

2. Since being elected to the TRSB, Mrs. Green has ignored requests to not email a quorum of the TRSB about board business. This has been advised by the school district's attorneys in accordance with RSA 91-A, the "Right to Know Law." On ten different occasions, Mrs. Green has sent emails regarding board business to a quorum of the TRSB and, in doing so, has compromised the district's efforts to be open and transparent with our constituents. The ten emails were sent on the following dates (see Appendix B):

- a. March 21st and 27th
- b. April 7th and 18th
- c. May 22nd and 23rd
- d. June 18th
- e. July 8th and 9th

The members of this Board take very seriously our responsibility and obligation to provide information to our constituents that is correct and true. The false and inaccurate information that is being communicated by Mrs. Green is an affront to the very constituents she is supposed to serve.

In addition to disseminating false and inaccurate information, Mrs. Green has publicly maligned the School District and its employees. She has knowingly done this without contrition and has made only the most minimal effort to understand the policies, procedures, laws and educational environment of the district she oversees.

With this letter, the TRSB acknowledges and condemns these acts and statements made by Mrs. Green. She has never shown any remorse for her actions and does not appear to respect the decisions, opinions and guidelines of this Board. The Board strongly declares to our constituents, our community and the taxpayers within the four towns of the Timberlane district that we do not and will not stand by Mrs. Green's damaging actions. The integrity and credibility of our school district are of the utmost importance to this Board. The trust we have with our communities is precious and needs to be protected and nurtured.

The potential damage and the damage that has already resulted from Mrs. Green's actions has been articulated clearly before the Board and is of great concern to all Board members. Although Mrs. Green has stated that she does not respect Board procedures, it is our hope that this process will move us forward together, rendering us stronger from this experience, and repairing the damage that has been done. Mrs. Green's contrite acknowledgement of these violations will be a necessary first step toward that end.

On behalf of the Timberlane Regional School Board,

Nancy Steenson
Timberlane Regional School Board Chair

APPENDIX A

Communication/Information

April 8th

My request for the text was both perfectly sensible and entirely innocent. The school board is being asked to approve a new AP textbook so naturally I wanted to see the text before giving it my vote. It was waiting for me at the high school front desk on Friday. Today it is not available to me, (but I'm told will be at some future date). **This "protocol" I supposedly violated is nothing more than an attempt to limit the information that school board members receive from sources other than the Superintendent's office.**

May 27th

Remember, school board members are not permitted to speak or communicate directly with principals – a rule imposed a few months ago

June 18th

On Monday I made a written request to the school board chairman to provide in advance a written proposal concerning the Fund Retention to include the amount of money proposed, the amount of the current projected surplus, and the budget lines from which this money is being removed. A similar request was made concerning the proposal, whatever it might be, for the athletic facilities. The information has not been forthcoming. This shows the disdain in which my requests are held and the complete disregard that is shown to giving the board truly insightful information in order to make thoughtful and considered decisions. We can't make informed decisions, which is why any item requiring action is given so little time on our agendas.

Surplus/HealthTrust Refund

April 11th

This is why I made a motion at the last School Board meeting to get monthly reports of district expenditures. My motion did not even get so much as a second because your elected officials do not think it necessary to oversee the SAU's spending. Not our job, they say over and over again. I've yet to figure out what job the School Board actually does have that they haven't given over to the SAU.

June 20th

By the way, RSA 31:95-b requires that unanticipated moneys, which the LGC refund was, shall be subject to "a prior public hearing on the action to be taken." This means a public hearing should have been held to both accept this money and to eventually expend it. No public hearing was held. It has long been my contention that this money should have added to our historical surplus to give us a surplus around \$2.7 million, instead it seems to have displaced the same amount of money previously in the projected surplus.

Surplus/HealthTrust Refund cont...

July 13th

When that line item goes up the following year, it could be argued that we need to raise more money from taxpayers because insurance has gone up! The holiday option will also free up money that could be spent in other ways rather than being put directly into the surplus. [New emphasis as of 7/13/14. It turns out the same can be said for the cash, as it is my contention that the refund money exactly displaced other money earmarked for surplus and essentially gave the district invisible money to spend.]

June 29th

That is a legal opinion. Others who know this general budgetary provision are of the opinion that it applies to acceptance and expenditure – either or both. And, when one dollar of the surplus is spent, then the LGC refund is expended because once in the surplus it is not segregated.

The current anticipated \$1.9 million surplus includes the LGC refund, so yes, the district spent about a million dollars out of our surplus but is hiding it behind the LGC refund.

Policy

April 18th

No-Bid Contracts Here to Stay Close on the sensible heels of the school board's no-bid contract for Mrs. Metzler's consulting services, the board seems set to approve a policy allowing no-bids in perpetuity.

If the policy goes thorough as currently written, and there is a very good chance it will, you will have many more no-bid contracts.... just so long as the "needs of the district" are continuing to be meet. The needs of the taxpayers need not trouble us.

May 14th

School Board Approves No Bid Policy and Other News

June 11th

Although the school board and the SAU have completely ignored Arthur Green's call for an explanation for budget policies not being followed...

High School of the Year

May 14th

I wish I could share in the joy of this distinction, and I am genuinely sorry to break it to you, but this award has absolutely nothing to do with academic excellence. It might as well be called "Excellence in Education Wellwishing."

Agenda

May 20th

These are uncomfortable topics. Why discuss them in public when you can just shut down a dissenting member and be done with it?

Town of Sandown

May 20th

At the risk of pointing out the obvious, this means that issues of concern to Sandown residents are deliberately not being discussed at school board and SAU meetings. This is not an issue of personalities; this is an issue of the majority oppressing the minority. As your elected representative, I am being prevented from doing my job which is asking questions and getting to the truth of matters.

July 7th

I was neither informed that a lawyer's opinion was being sought nor was I permitted to read this letter when other board members were so privileged. It is now July 7th and I'm still waiting, so great is the respect for Sandown residents and their elected representatives.

SAU Board

June 27th

Again, very interesting. Not a word of this private arrangement between Jason, you and Dr. Metzler was mentioned in the subsequent SAU meeting when Jason was told by Rob Collins to resign.

Budget

July 4th

Timeline of School Board, Budget Committee and SAU obstruction to expenditure transparency

APPENDIX B

Spanish Consultant Contract

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>
To: TRSD School Board <trsb@timberlane.net>

Fri, Mar 21, 2014 at 3:19 PM

Nancy,

Last night Rob provided me a contract for the Spanish consultant. It is clear that the deliverables are for Spanish in FT Kindergarten next year and not throughout the elementary program. The article in the Eagle Tribune announced Spanish was being introduced next year throughout the elementary program.

The reporter told me Dr. Metzler complimented him on the article, so the article was not in error. However, our local reporter says that he was told Spanish was being introduced just in KT next year.

Is the Spanish program being rolled out just in KT next year or throughout the elementary program?

Thank you, Nancy, and I, too, am pleased you are the new chair.

See you all tomorrow as well.

Donna

Items to be added to the agenda

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>
To: TRSD School Board <trsb@timberlane.net>

Thu, Mar 27, 2014 at 2:45 PM

Dear Nancy,

These are items I would like added to the agenda so we can address them specifically at our forthcoming meeting on April 3.

- 1) Decision and action on SB being given monthly line item report of expenditures;
- 2) Discussion and action re: expenditure of formerly projected \$1.9 million surplus
- 3) Status of Spanish program in kindergarten and in elementary schools
- 4) Understanding the deliverables in the Spanish consultant's contract

Might you also explain what you meant in your note of Sunday last as to "being held accountable" for not following the school board rules and code of ethics?

I have noted in the past that the board does not read emails or letters addressed to the board at meetings. I would like to see this practice changed. People from the district take the time to write to us. I feel we should take the time to read their letters in a public forum and share our reply with them as well. Perhaps we can discuss this also at our next meeting.

Thank you,
Donna

Re: Request for Materials

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 7, 2014 at 10:07 AM

To: TRSD School Board <trsb@timberlane.net>, Cathleen Gorman <cgormanconsulting@yahoo.com>, Arthur Green <azgreen@comcast.net>

Cc: "Metzler, Earl" <Earl.Metzler@timberlane.net>

Madame Chair,

The board is being asked to approve an AP textbook at our next meeting. While Mr. Strainge was shaking our hands at the last meeting, I innocently asked to review that text book. Mr. Strainge most kindly and immediately said a copy would be made available to me, as is only what one would expect. This was waiting for me at the HS. Now it is no longer.

It has been made clear that my request needs to go through you. So not only all communication directed to staff has to go through you, but all information from staff as well. I am left breathless by the scope of control you continue to try to exert over the elected officials in this district.

I expect that the text book I have requested will be made available to me immediately.

I also expect all the invoices related to the check register we are asked to sign at every board meeting be provided to me three days in advance of every meeting.

Please understand that my expectations are not subject to your discretion.

I also wish you to understand that all emails from you and Mr. Collins will be, at my discretion, reproduced on my blog.

Donna Green
Sandown representative on the Timberlane School Board

request for lawyer's letter, email info and SB Goals

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 18, 2014 at 10:55 AM

To: "nancypetunia ." <nancysteenson@comcast.net>, "Metzler, Earl" <earl.metzler@timberlane.net>, TRSD School Board <trsb@timberlane.net>

Nancy,

Please send me a copy of the lawyer's letter regarding the TRSB email issue. Thank you.

This email is for my public information on the Timberlane site:

donnagre@gmail.com

As for SB Goals, I would like to see goals set around financial deliverables.... target per student cost, target student/teacher ratios, budget caps linked to enrollment.

Also, I would like Mr. Holland to set up an alert on my site for new postings on the SB site or to send instructions for me to do so myself.

Our next agenda should include a discussion of future assessment methods including Smart Balance, PSATs and SATs - pro and con. Parents are very concerned about this and future changes.

Thank you,
Donna

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM DR. METZLER

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Thu, May 22, 2014 at 1:36 PM

To: "Belcher, Catherine" <Catherine.Belcher@timberlane.net>

Cc: Kate Delfino <ksdelfino@gmail.com>, Kelly Ward <kellyward9700@gmail.com>, "Metzler, Earl" <Earl.Metzler@timberlane.net>, Michael Mascola <mmascola@gmail.com>, Nancy Steenson <nancysteenson@comcast.net>, "Nancy Steenson (2)" <nansteenson@gmail.com>, Peter Bealo <pbealo@comcast.net>, Robert Collins <robcollins89@gmail.com>, Richard Blair <softwarethatworks@comcast.net>, "Sherman, Susan" <Susan.Sherman@timberlane.net>, Arthur Green <azgreen@comcast.net>, Cathleen Gorman <cgormanconsulting@yahoo.com>

I vigorously object to this. This needs to be done at a public meeting and should have a vote of the board because this is not needed to achieve school board policy goals (as per DBJ policy). As evidence, this need was not budgeted for and was not needed just a few short months ago. Furthermore, I cannot find out any information about this program online. The school board is in charge of curriculum and we should know what programs are going into the school. I want to see supporting documentation for this program and its necessity. Nor was this on tonight's agenda. To me this is an example of an end-of-year spending spree.

I call upon the chairman to stop this purchase and place it on the next agenda.

Please, only the chairman should respond to this message as a debate would constitute a meeting online.

I await the chairman's immediate action on this issue.

Donna

Thank you!

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Fri, May 23, 2014 at 8:38 AM

To: "Metzler, Earl" <Earl.Metzler@timberlane.net>

Cc: Kate Delfino <ksdelfino@gmail.com>, Kelly Ward <kellyward9700@gmail.com>, Michael Mascola <mmascola@gmail.com>, Nancy Steenson <nancysteenson@comcast.net>, "Nancy Steenson (2)" <nansteenson@gmail.com>, Peter Bealo <pbealo@comcast.net>, Robert Collins <robcollins89@gmail.com>, Richard Blair <softwarethatworks@comcast.net>, "Sherman, Susan" <Susan.Sherman@timberlane.net>, "Georgian, JoAnn" <JoAnn.Georgian@timberlane.net>, "Barcelos, Nancy" <Nancy.Barcelos@timberlane.net>, "Gaydos, Michelle" <Michelle.Gaydos@timberlane.net>, "Rolph, Douglas" <Douglas.Rolph@timberlane.net>, "Dayotis, Kathleen" <Kathleen.Dayotis@timberlane.net>, "Armfield, Debra" <Debra.Armfield@timberlane.net>

Dr. Metzler,

Please do not assume my support. I would expect a need of this magnitude would have been planned and budgeted. This last minute sizable expense should have been defended in a public meeting.

Donna Green

agenda too full

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 18, 2014 at 9:18 AM

To: Nancy Steenson <nansteenson@gmail.com>, TRSD School Board <trsb@timberlane.net>

Cc: Kelly Ward <kellyward9700@gmail.com>, michael mascola <mmascola@gmail.com>, Rob Collins <robcollins89@gmail.com>, Susan Sherman <susherm@hotmail.com>, Rick Blair <softwarethatworks@comcast.net>, Kate Delfino <ksdelfino@gmail.com>, Peter Bealo <pbealo@comcast.net>

Nancy,

Our agenda strikes me as being way too full considering that I believe the fiscal issues will take much more time than allotted. Could you reschedule the Eagle Scout and the engineering presentation? Also, the driver's ed program presentation was self-explanatory and really does not need our meeting time - except perhaps for questions.

Please let me know your thoughts on this.

I feel our meetings are losing their focus with too many presentations and not enough time devoted to informed and considered deliberation on action items.

I continue to await detailed information in advance concerning the surplus and line item impact for the retention fund proposal and the athletic facilities proposal.

Thank you,
Donna

Madam Chair to Call a Meeting

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 6:55 PM

To: P ter Bealo <pbealo@comcast.net>

Cc: "Belcher, Catherine" <Catherine.Belcher@timberlane.net>, Kate Delfino <ksdelfino@gmail.com>, Kelly Ward <kellyward9700@gmail.com>, "Metzler, Earl" <Earl.Metzler@timberlane.net>, Michael Mascola <mmascola@gmail.com>, Nancy Steenson <nancysteenson@comcast.net>, "Nancy Steenson (2)" <nansteenson@gmail.com>, Robert Collins <robcollins89@gmail.com>, Richard Blair <softwarethatworks@comcast.net>, "Sherman, Susan" <Susan.Sherman@timberlane.net>

Are we going to be told what the meeting concerns before the 24 hour notice requirement?

I would like to add the following agenda items:

- Explanation for the lateness of the auditor's report for 2013
- Update on budget overruns
- Discussion and action on hiring freeze

Thank you,
Donna

Madam Chair to Call a Meeting

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 7:14 PM

To: Peter Bealo <pbealo@comcast.net>

Cc: "Belcher, Catherine" <Catherine.Belcher@timberlane.net>, Kate Delfino <ksdelfino@gmail.com>, Kelly Ward <kellyward9700@gmail.com>, "Metzler, Earl" <Earl.Metzler@timberlane.net>, Michael Mascola <mmascola@gmail.com>, Nancy Steenson <nancysteenson@comcast.net>, "Nancy Steenson (2)" <nansteenson@gmail.com>, Robert Collins <robcollins89@gmail.com>, Richard Blair <softwarethatworks@comcast.net>, "Sherman, Susan" <Susan.Sherman@timberlane.net>

The NESDEC enrollment projections for the next 9 years should also be added to our agenda. Since this study was paid for by public money, it should be in the public area of our website and not on the locked agenda area. Nancy, could you please see that this material is moved to the public area please?

Thank you,
Donna

Madam Chair to Call a Meeting

Donna Green <donnagre@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 9, 2014 at 11:05 AM

To: Nancy Steenson <nancysteenson@comcast.net>

Cc: Kate Delfino <ksdelfino@gmail.com>, Kelly Ward <kellyward9700@gmail.com>, Michael Mascola <mmascola@gmail.com>, Peter Bealo <pbealo@comcast.net>, Robert Collins

<robcollins89@gmail.com>, Richard Blair <softwarethatworks@comcast.net>, "Sherman, Susan"
<Susan.Sherman@timberlane.net>, "Stokinger, George" <george.stokinger@timberlane.net>

Nancy,

Prior to this meeting I would like to have the auditor's report for my review as well as all legal opinions the district has received on the three topics we will be discussing. In other words, I do not want to go into this meeting with no information about the topics to be discussed as this would not be conducive to a thoughtful and informed vote. As chairman I'm sure you want your members as fully informed as possible on all issues coming for a vote.

Also, the district should make public the letter or letters of legal opinion on all the issues touching upon our upcoming meeting, and have them read to the public at the meeting.

Finally, it is critical that this meeting be televised and recorded on Vimeo. If that is not possible, in my opinion the meeting should be rescheduled.

I await notification as to when the invoices will be ready for review.

Thank you,
Donna

