

Fri 9/1/2023 4:25 PM

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Cc: Jim Goldberg <jim@esmcapital.com>

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to every Board of Education member today because I want to ensure that the following events are documented and that everyone is aware. I am a mother of 3 boys, my [REDACTED] is starting his junior year at LOL High School. I have so many concerns about [REDACTED] returning to the high school. We have had 3 major incidents at the high school and all 3 have involved the administration immediately jumping into punishments and never following through with investigations or following any state laws.

1. The first incident occurred in January and February of 2022. I received a call from Ms. Manfredi that my son [REDACTED] a freshman at the time, was going to receive an in-school suspension for sexual harassment and he would attend a class on sexual harassment training. Ms. Manfredi told me that [REDACTED] was in a group chat. The boys were engaging in inappropriate chats about other students, and they had copies of the chats. I asked what my child said specifically so that I could address it at home. Ms. Manfredi was unsure what statements my son made, and Mr. Wygonik was also unable to confirm any statements. [REDACTED] said that he had left the chat months ago and the only statement he made were to a friend to chill out while playing Minecraft. The mothers of the other students were not given any evidence either which is mandatory under Title 9 laws. No investigation was done, no evidence was presented to anyone, and the punishments were handed out immediately. All the parents requested a meeting to address this after sending a group email and copies of the law. A few days later we received an email saying that the boys would now be suspended for disruption of education instead of sexual harassment because the girls that were originally concerned about the chat had to leave class to talk to Mr. Wygonik.

My husband and I met with Mr. Wygonik to get a better understanding, but it became clear that no Title 9 laws were followed and no paperwork completed as deemed necessary by state laws. I let him know that if my son was suspended for disruption of education then the girls needed to be suspended also because my son was not on the text, and his education was disrupted when he was questioned. An hour later Mr. Wygonik called my husband and said that [REDACTED] would no longer be suspended, and it was over.

The stress of this situation could have been avoided if the administration knew the laws and policies and conducted any kind of investigation.

2. On May 8th, 2023, Mr. Wygonik called me and asked me to come to the school. He said that the state police were on their way and that [REDACTED] made threats to shoot up the school during lockdown on May 9th. When I arrived at the school, [REDACTED] was sitting in the conference room with 2 old Lyme police officers, a state trooper, and my husband. We were informed that Ms. Rahr emailed Mr. Wygonik that she overheard [REDACTED] say that the lockdown would be a good time to shoot up the school. [REDACTED] was charged with

Breach of Peace, we were told that he would get community service, and probation and be placed on a nationwide ban so he could not buy any firearms. We were told that background checks were already done on my husband and I. Mr. Wygonik then told [REDACTED] that he could sit in the library until his next class. We were confused at first but then told by Mr. Wygonik that no one thinks [REDACTED] is a threat so he can go back to class. We were also informed that he could not return to school on Tuesday because they were not comfortable having him there during lockdown. He would not be suspended but was not allowed in school. The drill was only 20 minutes long but since they were unsure of the time [REDACTED] could not attend any classes that day, disrupting his education. [REDACTED] asked Mr. Wygonik and the police if he was the only student being charged, and they told him yes because he was the only name they received. [REDACTED] left for the library and immediately started texting me that it was not him who said it, it was his friend. When his friend found out what happened, he immediately went with [REDACTED] to talk to Mr. Wygonik. They together told him that the teacher was going over the drill. She said the whole school would exit the building and stand on the turf field. [REDACTED] felt that this was unsafe to put the entire school in one large group, but he did not threaten the school. His friend told Mr. Wygonik that [REDACTED] didn't say anything, it was me. Mr. Wygonik told the boys that it was too late because they already charged [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] told me that there was going to be a meeting with Mr. Wygonik, Ms. Manfredi, Ms. Rahr, [REDACTED] and the other student Thursday during study hall. I decided to attend the meeting, but when I arrived Mr. Wygonik seemed surprised and said there was no meeting. Of course, the boys showed up because they were prepared for a meeting. Mr. Wygonik immediately pulled Ms. Manfredi out of a meeting. They both said that the boys could not talk to the teacher and that it was a police matter now. I asked to see the school threat policy, but Mr. Wygonik said that he was not aware of any. He just received the email from the teacher and immediately sent it to Mr. Neviasser. He told me that Mr. Neviasser instructed him to immediately call the police. I again asked for the policy but was told that he didn't think there was one and it didn't matter because he follows his own practice. I asked if he called the police to inform them that the other boy stated that it was not [REDACTED], it was him. He said no because he handed it to the police and then it is their case. I asked even if you have new information or evidence and he said no, it was out of his hands. He told [REDACTED] not to worry, it is not a big deal and will just blow over and everyone will forget about it. However, they removed [REDACTED] from the cafeteria in front of all his friends while 2 police officers waited by the door for him. He immediately started getting texts from kids asking if they were "on his hit list". I informed him that it is a big deal and we had to hire a criminal attorney. [REDACTED] requested to switch out of Ms. Rahr's class, and Mr. Wygonik again informed him that Ms. Rahr doesn't think he is a threat, and everyone knows he is a great kid.

After hiring a criminal attorney and many meetings over the course of 6 weeks, the charges were dropped when the prosecutor gathered the information and realized that it was not [REDACTED].

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I requested the emails between staff regarding the incident. Ms. Rahr emailed Mr. Wygonik and Ms. Manfredi on 5/08/2023, "Hi All, Happy Monday (smiling emoji), Just wanted to make sure that you were both aware that during my safety drill talk with my study hall [REDACTED] Goldberg and (another student) commented that the safety drill would be a great time to shoot up the school". (This study hall took place 6 days before.)

Mr. Wygonik emailed Ms. Rahr that "he would have a chat with the boys."

Mr. Wygonik then forwarded the email to Mr. Turner and Mr. Neviaser and added, "Please see the email below. Any suggestions on how to talk to these kids today? Would either of you like to join me to help send a message? Note the last name of one of the students."

Mr. Turner responded, "That might be a good one to have Matt or someone from the department present."

Mr. Neviaser responded "I agree with Ron. Let's see if Matt is available."

Those were the only emails I received so I am not sure how it escalated to calling the police and only my son being charged. No one talked with [REDACTED] or the other student. I should also tell you that I did not receive any documentation of a student discipline form nor was it documented on his log entry for any behavior discipline. I intend to reach out to the Ct. Department of Education to make sure that it was filed in accordance with state and federal law.

3. On May 30th, 2023, [REDACTED] came home from school and said that he was once again called down to the office. He said that the day before the presidential candidates were all giving speeches. There is a boy in [REDACTED]'s class with Down Syndrome and he wanted to run for President. [REDACTED] helped him write a speech and then encouraged him to give the speech when the boy was nervous beforehand. After the speech, a group of kids clapped too loud and obnoxiously and it was rude to the other candidates. [REDACTED] said that another student was also giving a speech and had to keep stopping because he was laughing too much, and the same group of kids were laughing too. The group that was laughing and clapping was called down and placed in the office. According to [REDACTED], they were accused of "bullying" the child with Down Syndrome, Ms. Manfredi informed me that she said they were disrespectful. Now they need to all be separated and placed with a teacher at every assembly going forward. If they are too loud at future assemblies, they will be banned from every school activity going forward for the next 2 years including prom and senior trip. She states that 4 teachers reached out stating that they have never seen such horrible behavior. She stated that some kids were videotaping but that [REDACTED]'s behavior was minor compared to others however they don't want to single kids out. I completely agree that if the kids were disrespectful there needs to be a punishment, but a 2-year punishment is extreme for clapping too loud.

I requested a copy of the emails in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act to see just how appalling the behavior is to ruin 2 years of a kid's high school career. I received a student discipline form but no emails. According to the report the kids were snickering and laughing and making a mockery of the process. The only email I did receive was from Ms. Manfredi to the junior advisors, this included the teachers who reported the kids. It states, not sure if you recall but last year at the class elections meetings, there was a group of students who were not acting appropriately. I think if a behavior is worth a 2-year punishment then the teachers should recall it.

I am writing to each one of you with the hope that you take these matters seriously. These are 3 major incidents in my family alone that describe the impulsive ways the administration deals with discipline. They grossly overreact to situations and place these students at risk. They expect these kids to follow policies that are in place to protect them but when questioned they admit to not even having knowledge of policies or state laws. Every member of the Board of Education was seated by the residents of this town because we believed that you would put our child's safety first. I am asking you to do that now. I am hoping that you will investigate our situation and every situation that has come before you from other families. I am willing to talk to any of you regarding the concerns at the High School.

Going forward, I want it noted that my son, [REDACTED] Goldberg is to never be interviewed, or disciplined by Mr. Wygonik or Ms. Manfredi unless they notify me first.

Thank you for your time,

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jeannie Goldberg

[REDACTED]