

From: hfb4444 <hfb4444@comcast.net>
To: lelan4444 <lelan4444@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Dismay over superintendent buyout
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2011 10:57 am

From: "Wendy DiFruscio" <wdifruscio@orcsd.org>
To: "Ann Lane" <alane@orcsd.org>, "Ann Wright" <ann_wright@comcast.net>, "Henry Brackett" <hfb4444@comcast.net>, jkach55@gmail.com, joceoquinn@yahoo.com, kbutts@orcsd.org, "Megan Turnbull" <mturnbull@orcsd.org>
Cc: "Howard Colter" <hcolter@orcsd.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 9:56:35 AM
Subject: FW: Dismay over superintendent buyout

FYI!

Wendy L. DiFruscio
Superintendent's Administrative Asst.
36 Coe Drive
Durham, NH 03824
868-5100 x20

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From: Charles Forcey [mailto:cforcey@historicusinc.com]
Sent: Wed 6/22/2011 3:08 PM
To: ORCSD School Board
Subject: Dismay over superintendent buyout

Dear School Board Members,

I was shocked to learn last week that the school board had voted to buy out the contract of the Superintendent. The action was taken with no prior public discussions, no hint of substantial problems with his job performance, and on the heels of a chaotic, divisive, and publicly embarrassing conclusion to the principal search.

At a moment when the board has been anticipating state cuts, seeking to cut paraprofessional, limiting the experience of new teacher hires to a mere two years, and saving money wherever possible, the expenditure of an estimated quarter of a million dollars or more to pay a good man to sit at home and a replacement to do his job less well seems to me the height of mismanagement.

I have waited a week to write this letter because I have been in shock and because there were so many irregularities in the way this was done that I naively hoped the decision -- one with remarkable personal costs to every tax payer in the district -- would be overturned because of all the procedural irregularities highlighted by Foster's: the unannounced meetings, three or more board members mixing at those meetings legal and policy discussions, and the backwards timeline of interviewing candidates before the deal was struck and the public informed to name just a few.

Now that the deal looks like it will stick against all reason and financial prudence, I expect that you will hear more criticism from the public. The extremely critical Foster's editorial should have been proof enough of public dismay at the actions of the majority, but the coming weeks and months will tell.

I do appreciate the work you all put into the school board, the complexity of the task facing you, and the difficulties of working with a superintendent after such a bad breach of trust during the principal search. That said, I believe you have come up with the most expensive possible solution to the problem, created another management vacuum in a district tottering on the edge of chaos, and in one stroke lost all credibility with the thrift-minded taxpayers like myself.

Sincerely,

Charles Forcey

Charles Forcey
12 Thompson Lane
Durham, NH 03824
p. 603-868-9900
c. 603-781-1189
f. 800-403-0463
www.historicusinc.com
cforcey@historicusinc.com