



The Board of Trustees of Centerville ISD was discouraged and disheartened to learn that the Leon County District Attorney's Office is pursuing criminal charges against our Superintendent, Mrs. Carole Dickey.

To the Board's knowledge, these charges stem from Mrs. Dickey's report of possible educator misconduct to the State Board of Educator Certification ("SBEC"). Upon learning of allegations of educator misconduct, Mrs. Dickey immediately notified law enforcement, and both the District and law enforcement promptly launched investigations. The employee resigned on May 23, 2025, while the investigation was still pending.

The allegations against the employee were such that, if true, would have required Mrs. Dickey to file a report of misconduct with SBEC within seven days of the employee's termination or resignation. However, the reporting requirement is not triggered unless and until there is "evidence" to support the alleged misconduct. Even though the investigation had not yet concluded and yielded "evidence" of the alleged misconduct, Mrs. Dickey attempted to report the educator to SBEC out of an abundance of caution within the timeline but ran into technical difficulty. Ultimately, the report was a day late. Again, at the time of the report, there was no evidence to support the allegation.

The Texas Education Code establishes that a failure to make a mandatory report *with the intent to conceal* alleged misconduct is a state jail felony. Given Mrs. Dickey's timely report to law enforcement, her swift action to place the employee on leave, and cautionary report to SBEC, we do not believe she intended to conceal the allegation against the educator, and we believe a jury of her peers will agree.

In the meantime, Mrs. Dickey is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Recognizing that her continued presence on campus is a distraction to the school community, Mrs. Dickey has asked that she be placed on administrative leave. The Board has just voted to honor that request, and Mrs. Dickey will remain on administrative leave until further notice.

Finally, we understand that the community has had questions about the Board's action in June to approve the expenditure of District funds for Mrs. Dickey's criminal defense. We ask for your understanding and forgiveness for not being more forthcoming with you at that time. This matter was first brought to the Board's attention by law enforcement, who communicated that if Mrs. Dickey did not resign as the Superintendent of Centerville ISD, they would pursue criminal charges. To this day, no local law enforcement agency has requested information from Centerville ISD about Mrs. Dickey's alleged criminal conduct, including what evidence—if any—the District had in its possession that would have required Mrs. Dickey to file a report of educator misconduct in the first place.

Given how the charges came about and in consideration of information Mrs. Dickey shared with the Board about the facts giving rise to the potential charge, the Board felt that any charges that might be filed against Mrs. Dickey lacked merit. In particular, as your elected Board of Trustees, we felt we owed a duty to you—our community—to ensure that the leadership of this District is not determined by outside influences or threats, but by merit and dedication to our students. Additionally, it is not uncommon for school districts to pay for legal costs of employees when the actions of the employee were taken during the scope of their employment and in accordance with Board Policy. Since Mrs. Dickey's actions giving rise to the criminal charge were taken within the scope of her employment and she followed Board policy, we

felt the expenditure was warranted. We stand by our decision to support Mrs. Dickey and eagerly await her exoneration.