
Subject:	Re: Meeting
From:	jennifer alvaro (jennifermalvaro@yahoo.com)
To:	jack_smith@mcpsmd.org;
Cc:	Henry_R_Johnson@mcpsmd.org; darlene_m_harris@mcpsmd.org; county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov; boe@mcpsmd.org; Darlene_M_Harris@mcpsmd.org; Elizabeth_G_Panarella@mcpsmd.org;
Date:	Tuesday, November 22, 2016 12:25 PM

Dear Dr. Smith,

I was contacted yesterday by an assistant in MCPS who asked to speak to an administrative manager to schedule a meeting with your chief of staff so he could speak on your behalf as you were too busy the past four months to meet regarding the sexual abuse by staff of students in MCPS schools.

For the past four years I have spoken to literally dozens (plural) of MCPS staff members. These meetings have taken place via work groups, advisory groups, one on one meetings, small group meetings, phone meetings, email exchanges, letters, board of education meetings and community meetings.

For almost four years I requested a meeting with your predecessor, Joshua Starr and for four months I have requested meetings with you. The superintendents office has remained closed to me and other parents whose only goal is to protect our children from child sex offenders. We have not been asking to repaint the buses a different color that is more soothing. We have not been requesting adding Pig Latin as a language option for high school students. We have not been advocating for MCPS to give free sweatshirts to all students. We have been advocating for MCPS to follow the law, do away with the illegal database of over 220 staff members MCPS was suspicious of abusing children but did not report this to police or cps. We have been advocating for updating your 26 year old policy. We have urged you to follow the state board of education directives MCPS ignored since 2012 leaving more children in danger and victimized. We have been trying to get MCPS to follow the law and provide documents requested via MPIA requests. Despite all obstacles put in our path, we have, with the help of the media, moved MCPS towards the goal line. MCPS has, due to our advocacy and the media coverage, taken some solid steps to implementing programs to protect our children. Much remains to be done.

Last night, I attending a community meeting at Cloverly Elementary school where a long time teacher was arrested for the sexual abuse of two children in the classroom. To date, five victims have come forward reporting crimes dating back to the early 2000s.

Your staff (heads of departments and the principal) representing you made the following admissions and statements:

- MCPS had reports and conducted in-house investigations against this man in 2008 and 2013 and left him in the classroom.
- Multiple parents at the meeting stated it was so well known this teacher was inappropriate with students it was common for parents to tell their children not to ever be alone with him and under no circumstances should they sit on his lap. Yet, inexplicably, he was moved out of the main building and into a portable classroom.
- Despite knowing this man has victims dating back to 2000, not one of your staff members has any idea if MCPS has or will reach out to students from Cloverly who are now in middle school or high school.
- Your staff repeatedly told parents their children would be taught the new , one session Body Safety curriculum. Dr. Smith, the curriculum is three sessions, not one.
- With a gym full of parents who are desperate for information on how to help and protect their children, your staff announced, "I have brochures and handouts to help you but I didn't bring a lot....you can look it up online if you don't get one." Really? She didn't bring enough materials she knew parents wanted and needed to the very meeting on that exact topic?

None of this inspires confidence, and as such, I respectfully decline to meet with your staff if you are not present.

Please let me know when you are available to meet. Meanwhile we parents are waiting and watching. Your silence is deafening.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Alvaro