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truth and accountability at Thornton Creek

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Tue, May 29, 2018 at 12:39 PM

To: John Miner <jminer@seattleschools.org>

Cc: "Joung, Helen H" <hhjoung@seattleschools.org>, "Starosky, Michael" <Mpstarosky@seattleschools.org>, Christina Ellis <penellis@gmail.com>

John,

We need some truth and accountability around what has been happening at Thornton Creek lately. This election push was initiated by your staff to remove Christina and me from office, plain and simple.

On the morning of April 30th, right after Jon Gasbar's welcome coffee, Cassie Condon pulled me into a closet outside the office to let me know there was "a movement" to return to the by-laws and impose one-year term limits. When I specifically asked her whether this was about filling empty site council positions or about ousting people, she admitted that people wanted to remove Christina, because they didn't "feel safe" with her. When I asked why this was, Cassie explained that Christina had barged into your and Kristin's offices "yelling". So, let's be clear here: the racist premise of a person of color who speaks out as "unsafe" is the entire motivation for this charade.

Your staff have openly discussed this with other parents at the school. They have also crafted their own version of events-based not on actual facts but based solely on their perceptions- and have presented this narrative as fact to parents in the community. This is entirely inappropriate, unprofessional and extremely toxic to the community as a whole.

Christina and I have both come to you with our concerns on a few different occasions (to name a few specific dates, April 5th, 6th and May 8th). I came to your office on April 5th to specifically ask for your help because it had come to my attention that staff were talking to other parents about their mistrust in Christina and me, based on their erroneous belief that we somehow colluded with the district to influence the principal selection process. Christina and I then both met with you again the next day to share our concerns about a growing rift between staff and us. You gave us your assurance that you would help.

Why did staff not come to us with their concerns before launching this campaign to remove us? Why did not you not insist that we all sit down face to face and have an honest, open dialogue before things got to this point? Again, we were counting on you to intercede. You have not, and now Christina and I have been targeted by staff, have had our integrity questioned, our characters assassinated, and our names dragged through the mud to other parents by your staff. There is irrefutable proof of this in both email form as well by parents who are willing to come forward and speak.

What is happening here is blatant bullying, intimidation and harassment. It is not ok. It should have been stopped a long time ago, and now it's hard to see how we will recover from this as a community.

You have claimed ignorance of most of these details. I am now telling you that I have proof that your staff have been involved and in fact the driving force behind this effort. I once again ask you to step up and do the right thing. This meeting tonight has no business taking place, and a further investigation into why and how all of this has happened needs to take place, for the sake of the integrity of our entire community.

Evan

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