



Re: Subject: Resignation Letter

From Micah Bess <micahbess@prepschools.org>

Date Thu 3/6/2025 6:47 PM

To Diamond Kelley [REDACTED]

Bcc [REDACTED]

1 attachment (3 MB)

LB-0489_D.Kelley.pdf;

Ms. Kelley-

I, as the Interim CEO of Prep Public Schools, accept your resignation, effective immediately. Attached to this email, you will find a completed Tennessee Department of Labor Separation Notice confirming that you "Quit," and that your last day of employment will fall on March 6, 2025.

Unfortunately, it seems we must agree to disagree about your record while at Chattanooga Prep.

I politely decline the opportunity to respond to every aspect of your resignation message, except to say this: you have not been slandered by Chattanooga Prep. Your personnel file, which was requested by several local media outlets due to your involvement in the situation regarding Mr. White, speaks for itself. Chattanooga Prep was compelled by law to respond to these FOIA requests, and we had no choice but to share your record, along with a great deal of other information legally requested by local media.

I also politely decline your request to be paid a severance. The circumstances surrounding your resignation, do not lend themselves to such an outcome.

Although these may not be the terms you would like to end on, all of us at Prep wish you the very best. We will be in contact regarding when you may collect your belongings at the school.

Sincerely,
Micah

Micah Reed Bess

Interim CEO | PREP Public Schools

1849 Union Avenue

Chattanooga, TN 37404

Ph: 804-854-4996

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[Book time to meet with me](#)

From: Diamond Kelley <ericgabby2@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:36 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Subject: Resignation Letter

To whom it may concern.

One Big Family - this core value of CPS has been central to my time here. The young men at CPS have been more than students to me; they have been my young men. I have fed them, clothe them, prayed for them, taught them, laughed with them, cried with them, and supported them - because that is what you do for family.

In the past few weeks, I have received kind words and well wishes from past and present colleagues, employees, and others I have worked with. One message, in particular, stood out:

“One of your strengths is that you can endure a lot, and things don’t seem to affect you as easily as they would others - at least on the surface.”

As a leader, I have always understood the importance of composure, of maintaining a strong exterior even in difficult moments. But this time, I won’t hide it -I am hurt. I recognize the need to separate personal beliefs from professional environments, but I truly believed that One Big Family was more than a slogan; I believed it was the foundation of CPS.

This experience has been a hard lesson: at the end of the day, this is a business.

With that understanding, I am submitting my resignation, effective immediately. I am also offering to waive any legal claims I have against Chattanooga Preparatory School. In exchange, I am requesting:

1. Severance pay in an amount equal to the remainder of my contract.
2. A letter confirming that background checks were the responsibility of HR.

Let me be clear: my reputation is not for sale. My integrity is not up for negotiation. I have carried myself with dignity, and I will not allow my name to be tarnished.

I have served this school and these young men with everything in me. Only God knows I did what I was supposed to do. I leave with my head held high, I do not leave in surrender. I stand on my character, my values, and my unwavering commitment to these young men.

My name has been slandered, and no one has stepped forward to speak on my behalf. Still, I want Prep Public Schools to remain focused on what truly matters - celebrating and supporting the 50 young men who will graduate in just a few months.

Despite everything, I leave with gratitude. Thank you for the opportunity to serve these incredible young men. I have no doubt they will become the leaders of tomorrow - young men who will not only change their families' futures but also make a lasting impact on the Chattanooga community.

I appreciate the time I have spent here and the role I have been privileged to play in their lives.

Respectfully,

Diamond Kelley

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