

PSC & ETHICS Complaint:

- I am filing a complaint with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission against Dr. Jeff McDaniel, Superintendent of Floyd County School District; Knox Wilson, Director of HR with the Professional Standards Commission; and Craig Ellison, Director of IT for violations of the PSC Standard of Ethics for Educators. I am filing this Ethics complaint against Floyd County Local Board of Education member George Bevels with the Local Board of Education and State Board of Education for violations of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-63.
- I make this complaint against Local Board of Education member George Bevels for repeatedly misusing public funds and property. For example, approximately in the Fall of 2014, Mr. Bevels was helping his church build an addition. My boss, Derry Richardson, told me that Board member George Bevels wished to obtain a building permit, so Mr. Bevels had one of Floyd County School District employees (Rodney Dubois) draft up blueprints on the school district's Autocad to design his church addition to obtain this permit. Autocad is a very expensive software so Rodney had to use the County owned computer, county owned software, during county owned time to draft these blueprints. Rodney Dubois was the employee that Mr. Bevels required to do this. I know this to be true because I observed Rodney do this work for Mr. Bevels with my own eyes and discussed the matter with him. All of us were too scared to complain or report Mr. Bevels at the time because he is a Board member and we knew it would cost us our jobs if we refused to comply with his orders. Nevertheless, I now know Mr. Bevels actions to be a violation of Georgia law O.C.G.A. § 20-2-63.
- I know that Rodney did not want to do this, complained extensively about doing this, and only did this because he felt he had no choice but to do it. He also had school district work duties and felt he had no time to do it either. Mr. Bevels had him complete this work during school district work hours. I know this because he told me this and I also observed him actually doing the work---drafting these blue prints for Mr. Bevels during school hours.
- I also know that George Bevels is a member of a hunting club in Cave Springs. Other members include Doyal Jackson/ retired food service tech, William Tant/ retired grounds crew, Mike Huckabee, current grounds crew but retiring in September of this year, and other employees of Floyd County Schools. For several years I know they have been taking Floyd County School owned equipment, tractors, and bobcats to the hunting club to clear land. In 2011 they blew up an engine in the tractor and I believe it was repaired in the bus shop.
- I am filing this complaint against Dr. Jeff McDaniel, Superintendent of Floyd County Schools; Knox Wilson, HR Director; and Craig Ellison, IT Director. I believe that they have violated Standard 6 concerning Remunerative Conduct--- "accepting gifts from vendors or potential vendors for personal use or gain where

WCM

there may be the appearance of a conflict of interest" Standard 5, concerning Public Funds and Property and Standard 4, concerning Honesty.

- I have been informed that Superintendent Dr. McDaniels has accepted the offer of trips from various contractors and vendors in addition to other gifts or benefits for himself or for his administration. I may not know every single specific, but a thorough investigation would be able to identify this information by simply putting in subpoenas or requests to these local contractors and vendors as asking them what golf tickets, trips, Braves Tickets, vacations, jackets, food/dinners/lunches, and other items of remuneration they have provided. A list of contractor vendors can be obtained through open records and these include: Mariah Custodial, Danny Tucker of Tucker Tree Service, Johnson Controls, RA-LIN, and Richardson and Associates.
- I have been informed that there have been contractors and vendors that have performed personal services for Dr. McDaniel at his personal residence. My former supervisor Derry Richardson who dealt solely with contractors and vendors informed me that Dr. McDaniel had one contractor hang a golfing net up for Dr. McDaniel in his home and a contractor/vendor has done other work for him at his house, for example, cutting trees in his yard.
- While Dr. McDaniel may have paid this contractor vendor personally, he pulled him out of a job working for Floyd County School System to do it. I know this to be true because I personally confirmed this with the contractor vendor, Danny Tucker. I was also on the job during school district work hours, when I was informed that Dr. McDaniel was having our office rearrange this vendor's school system work schedule to come work on Dr. McDaniel's personal home. The vendor contractor was backlogged with school district work duties that he was being paid for with public funds. I was informed that Dr. McDaniel wanted the vendor to do work for him personally at his home and because the vendor was backlogged, Dr. McDaniel called the Maintenance Department to have the contractor immediately have this assignment for Dr. McDaniels placed at the top of the list.
- I know that other high level administrators have received multiple gifts, perks, and benefits from contractors and vendors. For example, it is common practice that they have gone on many social excursions with one another where I believe public funds were improperly used or where contractors and vendors paid high level administrators certain gifts in violation of Standard 6.
- For example, Superintendent Dr. McDaniel and other high level administrators have been in attendance for fancy dinners sponsored by contractors like Johnson Controls including fish fry events and other activities. They regularly go to a Skeet shooting event where administrators and contractors/vendors hung out together. I am not certain where the funding came for this activity. This occurred on a Saturday. I was told to attend by my supervisor. There I observed Mr. Craig

Ellison (Director of IT at the time), Dr. Bob Puckett (former Asst. Superintendent), Mr. Sam Sprewell (Asst Superintendent) with contractors and vendors in attendance. For example, Mr. Sam Tucker, a contractor from Montana Construction and Mr. Chris Hayes from Moriah were there. The event was located on Dr. Puckett's property in the fall of 2014. I have photographs and video of this event that I can provide. During one of these skeet-shooting events (which I did not attend but which I watched the video for), they made a bomb which I believe was made out of ammonium nitrate and fertilizer. They placed this bomb in bales of hay and they hired a professional marksman to shoot the bomb. This is because if a bullet goes through a bomb at a certain speed it explodes. I know this to be true because the video of the bombing was widely shown throughout the school system after the event. I remember seeing T& R Electric and Moriah along with Floyd County administrators in the bomb video. The reason why these regular skeet shooting incidents are relevant is that after the criminal investigation ensued, the school administration denied having knowledge about these skeet shooting machines. However, this would be false testimony since high level administrators such as Craig Ellison and multiple contractor vendors would use these machines for their skeet shooting parties and they were stored at all times within the maintenance department in plain view.

- I was told that this coming spring 2015 as well as last 2014, Superintendent McDaniel was supposed to go on a paid vacation, paid by contractors and/or vendors. I was told that this vacation was paid either by RA Lin, Richardson, or Johnson Controls---all contractors/vendors for the district. I was informed by my supervisor that Dr. McDaniel cancelled this vacation that he was going to take with Derry Richardson paid by a contractor or vendor, possibly around the time the criminal allegations arose.
- I have been told that Floyd County School District high -level administrators have regularly gone on high-end golfing trips paid by Johnson Controls.
- I was told that Contractors and Vendors (such as RA-LIN and Associates) gave high level administrators gifts and other perks. For example, I was told that Knox Wilson received Braves Tickets this spring 2015 from RA-LIN.
- I was told that Craig Ellison went on an all paid trip to Chicago with Richardson and Associates to tour the Richardson plant who have a contract with our audio systems. He attended with Derry Richardson and there they were wined and dined at very high-end gourmet restaurants.
- I have been told that the Superintendent made improper advances on subordinate female employees. I have been told there is an improper relationship currently with the Superintendent McDaniel and his subordinate.
- Floyd County School District had me regularly install surveillance cameras to spy on employees.

WPH

- After the criminal investigation ensued, I believe the Superintendent tried to make as many scapegoats as he could to avoid blame and finger pointing at his failure of leadership. (For example, blaming Sam Sprewell instead of himself for failure of supervision.) Many innocent people ended up leaving while many unclean hands at the top remain behind.
- Dr. McDaniel falsely accused me of wrongdoing, stating that I had improperly kept county owned equipment at my house. This was a lie. All of this equipment I had with permission and needed it there to perform my work related duties as directed by my previous supervisors over the past twenty one years of working at Floyd County School District.
- I was forced to resign or threatened with termination wrongfully. I only had four items that I sometimes brought to my house when I had to, which I used for work related activities. For example, one of my job duties was being in charge of security for the school district and I was required to bring my laptop to the house because I was on-call during nights and weekends. In the event of an emergency, I needed to be able to disarm the security alarm and access the cameras from my computer system at the house. I also had a video camera at the house that I was using to complete work duties assigned by Sam Sprewell who had asked that I put together a video timelapse of the construction of Coosa High School which is still online to this date. Sam Sprewell purchased the cameras for this project and I used my personal drone to film the construction as it was occurring. I worked on this assignment during my personal time over the weekends. I only agreed to resign because of a serious health condition that flared up as a result of this intense job related stress.
- I was not aware of the illegal activity that is currently undergoing a criminal investigation during anytime. I have been a loyal, dedicated employee of the District for 21 years. I have done my best to comply with all school district policies, rules, and regulations at all times.
- I am compelled to come forward to blow the whistle on what I believe has been numerous violations of ethics and Georgia law by this local board member, Superintendent, and high ranking members of the administration. I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what has been going on now for years at Floyd County Schools.
- The taxpayers deserve to know this. I have been told that years ago Floyd County Schools lost millions of dollars in SPLOST funds due to an accounting error which resulted in the RIF. Our teachers and our students have suffered the brunt our leaderships' failures, while they continue to live high on the hog even receiving raises added to their high salaries after this happened.

§ 20-2-63. Prohibited conflict of interests of board members

Currentness

- (a)(1) No local board of education member shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges, advantages, or employment for himself or herself, his or her immediate family member, or others.
- (2) No local board of education member shall act in his or her official capacity in any matter where he or she, his or her immediate family member, or a business organization in which he or she has an interest has a material financial interest that would reasonably be expected to impair his or her objectivity or independence of judgment. Compliance with Code Section 20-2-505 shall not constitute a violation of this paragraph.
- (3) No local board of education member shall solicit or accept or knowingly allow his or her immediate family member or a business organization in which he or she has an interest to solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing that board member in the discharge of his or her official duties. This paragraph shall not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of contributions to the campaign of an announced candidate for elective public office if the local board of education member has no knowledge or reason to believe that the campaign contribution, if accepted, was given with the intent to influence the local board of education member in the discharge of his or her official duties. For purposes of this paragraph, a gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value shall not include the items contained in subparagraphs (a)(2)(A) through (a)(2)(J) of Code Section 16-10-2.
- (4) No local board of education member shall use, or knowingly allow to be used, his or her official position or any information not generally available to the members of the public which he or she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his or her official position for the purpose of securing financial gain for himself or herself, his or her immediate family member, or any business organization with which he or she is associated.
- (5) No local board of education member or business organization in which he or she has an interest shall represent any person or party other than the local board of education or local school system in connection with any cause, proceeding, application, or other matter pending before the local school system in which he or she serves or in any proceeding involving the local school system in which he or she serves.
- (6) No local board of education member shall be prohibited from making an inquiry for information on behalf of a constituent if no fee, reward, or other thing of value is promised to, given to, or accepted by the local board of education member or his or her immediate family member in return therefor.
- (7) No local board of education member shall disclose or discuss any information which is subject to attorney-client privilege belonging to the local board of education to any person other than other board members, the board attorney, the local school superintendent, or persons designated by the local school superintendent for such purposes unless such privilege has been waived by a majority vote of the whole board.
- (8) No member of a local board of education may also be an officer of any organization that sells goods or services to that local school system, except as provided in Code Section 20-2-505 and excluding nonprofit membership organizations.

WEN

(9) No local board of education member shall be deemed in conflict with this subsection if, by reason of his or her participation in any matter required to be voted upon, no material or monetary gain accrues to him or her as a member of any profession, occupation, or group to any greater extent than any gain could reasonably be expected to accrue to any other member of that profession, occupation, or group.

(b) Upon a motion supported by a two-thirds' vote, a local board of education may choose to conduct a hearing concerning the violation by a local board of education member of any conflict of interest provision in subsection (a) of this Code section. The local board of education member accused of violating said provision shall have 30 days' notice prior to a hearing on the matter. Said accused member may bring witnesses on his or her behalf, and the local board of education may call witnesses to inquire into the matter. If it is found by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the board that the accused member has violated a conflict of interest provision contained in subsection (a) of this Code section, the local board shall determine an appropriate sanction. A board member subject to sanction pursuant to this Code section may, within 30 days of such sanction vote, appeal such decision to the State Board of Education, which shall be empowered to affirm or reverse the decision to sanction such board member. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules governing such appeal process. This subsection shall apply only to local board of education members elected or appointed on or after July 1, 2010.

(c) As used in this Code section, the term "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, sibling, or parent or the spouse of a child, sibling, or parent.

Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-63 (West)

W. H. N. G.