

BLUEBYRD LLC

19th November 2022

Ms. Susan Wise Bauer
The Well-Trained Mind
contactsusan@welltrainedmind.com

Dear Ms. Bauer,

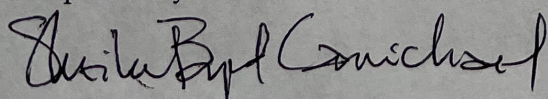
I write with deep regret and my sincere apology for unintentionally implying that you or anyone else at The Well-Trained Mind had anything at all to do with writing the deeply flawed draft standards document that was presented to the Virginia Board of Education this past Thursday, November 17th. Neither you nor anyone else from the Well-Trained Mind had any part whatsoever in the drafting of that document.

Sadly and ironically, it was because of my admiration for you that I had hoped to get your thoughts on that draft, which was very hastily and irresponsibly prepared. I should have recognized your non-response to my request as an opportunity to withdraw from this process and convincing my colleagues to do the same. You were very clear about not having time to respond to my request; we didn't allow enough time. You also made it clear that you thought the organization of the standards document was flawed, and I agree. I deeply regret not pushing harder for more time and/or not removing myself from the process altogether.

When pressed repeatedly by an attorney, a member of the board, for the names of people we had consulted while drafting the document, I was trying to convey only whom we had reached out to for comment. I was exhausted and flustered. I was deeply frustrated by the organized political attack. That said, none of these reasons justifies my erroneous statement on Thursday. I see that clearly now.

I hope that you will share this statement with your colleagues at The Well-Trained Mind. As I mentioned in my email, I am cc'ing the Chair of the Board, the Secretary of Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia here, and will clarify both in written and oral remarks to the Board of Education that you had no part in this process whatsoever.

Respectfully,



Sheila Byrd Carmichael

cc: Alan Gecker, Aimee Guidera, Jillian Balow