

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MOORE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.

JAMES L. BOLES, JR. Individually and as)
a Member of the North Carolina House of)
Representatives,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

THE MOORE COUNTY BOARD OF)
EDUCATION,)

Defendants.)

VERIFIED COMPLAINT
FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF, WRIT
OF MANDAMUS, TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER AND
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

PLAINTIFF, by and through his undersigned counsel, complaining of the Defendant,
alleges and says as follows:

1. The Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of Moore County, North Carolina.
2. The Plaintiff is the duly elected Representative of the North Carolina House of Representatives for District 52, which includes the County of Moore.
3. The Defendant Moore County Board of Education is a body politic with its principal office and place of business in Carthage, North Carolina.
4. The Moore County Board of Education is responsible for, among other things, the hiring and retention of the Superintendent for Moore County Schools.
5. The Defendant hired Dr. Robert Grimesey to serve as the Superintendent of Moore County Schools on or about July 1, 2014. Dr. Grimesey served as Moore County School's Superintendent from July 1, 2014 until June 4, 2015 at which time his employment was terminated by a vote of five to three.
6. At all relevant times during his employment, Dr. Grimesey has performed his duties and responsibilities in a competent and professional and compassionate manner and has received the support of Moore County citizens including teachers, students and business

leaders.

7. The five school board members that voted to terminate Dr. Grimesey's employment are Kathy Farren, Laura Lang, Ben Cameron, Becky S. Carlson, and Sue Black. The three board members who opposed Dr. Grimesey's termination were Bruce Cunningham, Charles R. Lambert and Ed Dennison.

8. In the Plaintiff's capacity as the elected representative of the people of Moore County, Representative Boles has thoroughly reviewed the circumstances surrounding the termination of Dr. Grimesey as well as the reaction of the Moore County community, including its teachers, students, parents and community leaders. Based upon this review, the Plaintiff has concluded that there is overwhelming support for Dr. Grimesey and overwhelming opposition to the actions of Board Members Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black as referenced in the multiple social media and newspaper articles attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. The Plaintiff has further concluded that the actions of the Moore County Board of Education, through a majority of its members, is contrary to the strong wishes and desires of the Moore County citizens, and the termination of Dr. Grimesey will have a detrimental effect on the community including, but not limited to, (1) the loss of a highly respected and talented Superintendant, (2) the loss of teachers who oppose the actions of the majority of the Moore County Board of Education; (3) the disruption of continuity in the classrooms of Moore County; (4) negative financial impact on the budget of the Moore County School System related to the unjustified termination of Dr. Grimesey; and (5) the detrimental effect on the good reputation of Moore County and the impact this action will have on the County's ability to hire a competent Superintendent in the future.

10. Upon information and belief, the actions of Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black were motivated by personal animosity towards Dr. Grimesey and personal favoritism and affiliation with Kathy Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent, who upon

information and belief, sought the job of Moore County Superintendant when it became available.

11. The conduct and actions of Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black acting as a majority of the Moore County Board of Education, was not only inconsistent with their duty and responsibility to represent the citizens of Moore County but also inconsistent with what is clearly within the best interest of Moore County and its schools.

12. In the Plaintiff's capacity as the duly elected Representative of the citizens of Moore County in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Plaintiff intends to introduce a Local Bill on Monday, June 8, 2015, which seeks a recall all members of the Moore County Board of Education. The purpose of introducing the Local Bill is to protect the best interests of the citizens of Moore County and to challenge the actions of the Board Members. Plaintiff has confidence that the Local Bill could be passed by July 1, 2015. If the Bill passes, it would place a recall in the hands of the Moore County voters during the November 2015 election. If the recall passes, the Board Members who currently sit on the Moore County Board of Education would be removed.

13. If the Moore County voters vote in favor of the recall, pursuant to existing law, the Moore County Commissioners would appoint their replacements and those individuals would serve until the election of November 2016.

14. Based upon the actions of Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black and based upon the improper motive relating to the unjustified termination of Dr. Grimesey, the Plaintiff, as well as the citizens of Moore County, is concerned that these five Board Members, acting as the majority of the Moore County Board of Education, will continue to act in a manner which is inconsistent with the wishes and directives of their constituency, including but not limited to, hiring a permanent replacement for the the Superintendent position.

15. Upon information and belief, the Moore County Board of Education has voted

to permit Larry Upchurch to serve as an interim Superintendent pending further action of the Moore County Board of Education. Plaintiff is concerned that this further action may include an additional decision detrimental to Moore County, its students, teachers and parents.

16. Plaintiff is also of the position that the actions of the majority of the School Board could further impact the financial well-being of the Moore County school system if the majority of the Board votes in favor of hiring a permanent Superintendent who would require compensation at a high level and would possibly be subject to removal if the recall vote is successful. Based upon the clear and unequivocal support for Dr. Grimesey from the citizens of Moore County, there is an extremely high probability that the recall vote would pass and the members who voted in favor of Dr. Grimesey's termination would no longer be serving on the Board. There is also a very high probability that when the Board is removed, the County Commissioners would appoint school board members who would act in the best interest of Moore County.

17. There is a likelihood that the Plaintiff will succeed not only on the merits of his claim that the actions of the majority of the School Board were both arbitrary and capricious but also succeed, through a recall vote, in removing the members of the Moore County Board of Education.

18. Both the Plaintiff and the citizens and residents of Moore County will be irreparably harmed if the Defendant is permitted to hire a permanent replacement for Dr. Grimesey prior to the election of November 2015 and subsequent appointment of new Board members in that (1) the Moore County Board of Education will continue to pay salaries for two individuals for the same position at the expense of the Moore County taxpayers; (2) the Moore County School System will experience an extreme and unprecedented reduction in valuable teachers who adamantly oppose the actions of the majority of the Board; (3) the students of Moore County will also suffer as a result of teachers leaving the school system as a result of the termination of Dr. Grimesey and the teachers' lack of trust and support for the

Moore County Board of Education; and (4) the financial burden on the Moore County School System if the Board hires a permanent Superintendent, which potentially could be Kathy Kennedy, and the new superintendant is subject to dismissal and a large payout after the recall vote for the appointment by the Moore County Commissioners.

19. The actions of the Moore County Board of Education was both arbitrary and capricious and contrary to the overwhelming popular opinion of the Moore County citizens.

20. Plaintiff seeks a Declaration from this Court that the conduct of the Moore County Board of Education was both arbitrary and capricious in the termination of Dr. Grimesey.

21. Plaintiff further seeks by separate motion a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction prohibiting the Moore County Board of Education from hiring a permanent replacement for Dr. Grimesey until the recall vote has been completed in November 2015 and if successful, the appointment of new members of the Board has been completed.

22. Plaintiff also seeks a Writ of Mandamus and an Order from this Court that the conduct of the Defendants, by and through the majority of its members as identified herein, constitutes a clear abuse of discretion.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests as follows:

1. That the Court declare that the conduct of the Moore County Board of Education by and through the majority of its members as identified herein acted arbitrarily and capriciously and with a clear abuse of discretion in terminating the employment of Dr. Grimesey.
2. That the Court enter an Order restraining and enjoining the Defendant from hiring a permanent Superintendent until such time as the recall vote is taken, and if appropriate the Board replacements are sworn in as duly sworn members of the Moore County Board of Education.

3. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

This the 5 day of June 2015.

VAN CAMP, MEACHAM & NEWMAN, PLLC
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

By: 

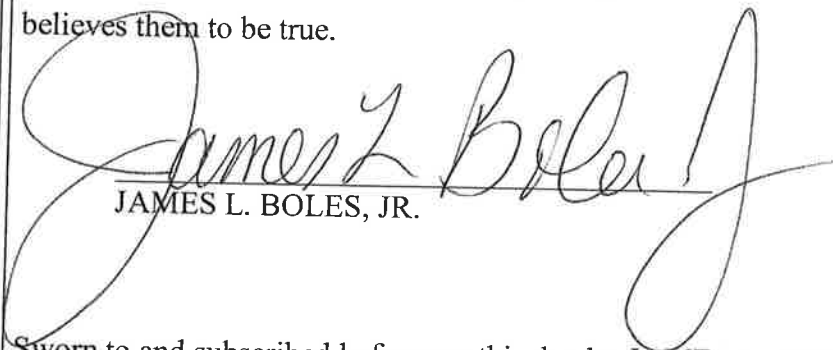
Thomas M. Van Camp
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Telephone (910) 295-2525
Facsimile (910) 235-0233

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF MOORE

VERIFICATION

JAMES L. BOLES, JR., being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Plaintiff in this action, individually and as a Member of the North Carolina House of Representatives; that he has read the foregoing Complaint and that the same is true and correct to his knowledge, except as to those matters and things alleged on information and belief and as to those he believes them to be true.


JAMES L. BOLES, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by JAMES L. BOLES, JR.

- ☒ I have personal knowledge of the identity of the principal(s).
☐ I have seen satisfactory evidence of the principal's identity, by a current state or federal identification with the principal's photograph in the form of a _____.
☐ A credible witness has sworn to the identity of the principal(s).

Date: 6/5/2015



Erica L. Street
Notary Public

Erica L. Street
Printed or typed name of Notary Public

My commission expires: 11/21/2015

75°

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Community Lashes Out at School Board Over Ouster Attempt

Story Comments (47)

Print Font Size:

Posted: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 3:22 pm

Staff Report | 47 comments



Superintendent Bob Grimesey

Moore County Schools parents, teachers and community leaders took to social media outlets Tuesday night and Wednesday in a rage against an effort to remove Schools Superintendent Robert Grimesey from office.

The Moore Board of Education, in a closed executive session Monday night, held a performance review for Grimesey, after which a split board asked him to resign his post or risk being fired. The board has scheduled an 8 a.m. meeting for Thursday morning at the Central Office to discuss a personnel matter. At least two board members and others with direct knowledge of the situation say the meeting involves Grimesey's future with Moore County.

Facebook, Twitter and local media websites were buzzing with hundreds of comments, photos and pleadings from parents upset at the news that the first-year superintendent could be forced out of office. Many of those people posted copies of emails and letters they had written and sent to school board members pleading for them to keep Grimesey on.

No school board members have publicly said what occurred Monday evening in the closed session, but several others who heard directly from board members or have firsthand knowledge say the board is split 5-3 in favor of Grimesey's departure.

Mentioned repeatedly as Grimesey's top failing has been what some have characterized as strained relationships with some top school administrators and principals. Several sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said a key sticking point is that Grimesey had only offered one-year contracts to senior staff.



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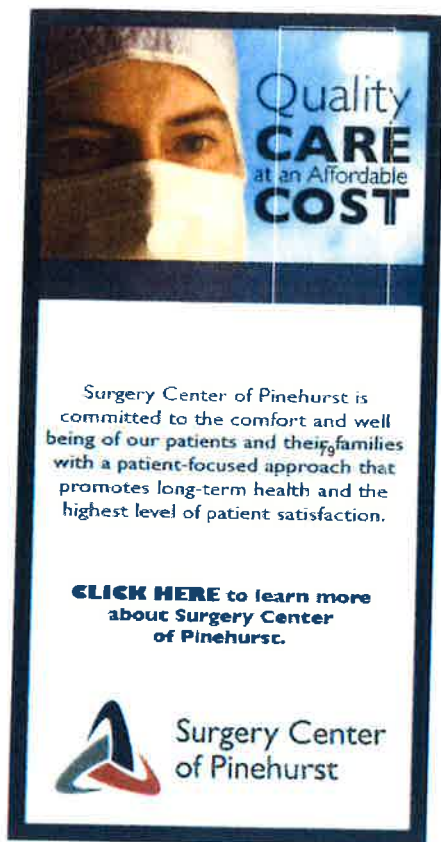
Exhibit A

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Board vice chair Kathy Farren and members Laura Lang, Sue Black, Becky Carlson and Ben Cameron are said to have formed a coalition to oust Grimesey. Board chairman Bruce Cunningham and members Charles Lambert and Ed Dennison are said to be supporting Grimesey.

"From the numerous business people and community leaders I've spoken to in the past 24 hours, the five members of this coup d'état may be the most widely hated and despised people in Moore County," said Southern Pines Town Councilman Mike Fields. "Dr. Grimesey is one of the brightest, most articulate, passionate, committed and visionary leaders I have ever encountered. He truly understands what it takes to build a world-class school system.

"I sure hope this is not a done deal."

Nick Picerno, chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, said Wednesday that he has received "overwhelming support" for Grimesey in phone calls and e-mails. He vowed that he would not support the use of taxpayers' money to buy out Grimesey's contract.

"As chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, I have one vote," he said. "I would vote to reduce our appropriation to the school board next year by any amount of money used to buyout the superintendent's

contract. Maybe they have another way to pay for it that I don't know about. The taxpayers' money of Moore County will not be used for this payout."

Grimesey's salary under a four-year contract, set to expire on June 30, 2018, is \$128,148 per year plus an annual supplement of \$3,036 for a total of \$131,184.

Grimesey's contract reads that in the event of unilateral termination, the board "shall pay to the superintendent, as severance pay, the aggregate salary he would have earned pursuant to ... this agreement for the upcoming 12 months of the agreement or the remaining time of the agreement, whichever is less."

However, a negotiated settlement could cost the county substantially more.

Picerno acknowledged that he has "limited information" at this point and that he has attempted to contact school board chairman Bruce Cunningham for an explanation.

"I cannot support this unless the board can justify this," he said. "Right now I am very concerned. I would like to hear what they have to say in public. Every man is due his fair shot. He has been here a year. They may have just cause. If so I would support them. This may cause irreparable harm to our reputation."

The actions in Moore County have even reverberated in Raleigh. Late Wednesday afternoon, state Rep. Jamie Boles, who represents most of Moore County, posted a message on his Facebook page:

"As your Representative I am deeply concerned with the process in which the Moore County Schools Superintendent position is being tainted. In conversations with past and present board members I have found Superintendent Dr. Robert Grimesey to be respected, honorable and trustworthy. Though I may not have all the facts, I have been assured that this is a 'personality issue.'

"I would like to encourage EVERYONE to attend the 8 am meeting Thursday morning -June 4th at the Central office in Carthage. Show your support for our Superintendent Robert 'Bob' Grimesey."



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Grimesey has declined comment and has restricted public appearances. He was scheduled to have appeared Wednesday afternoon at a Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills lunch honoring four outstanding high school seniors but did not attend.

The behind-the-scenes machinations have angered some of the other top political, education and business leaders in Moore County, chief among them Sandhills Community College President John Dempsey and Partners in Progress executive director Pat Corso.

Dempsey said he was "shocked and angered" by what seems to be transpiring.

"I have no idea what goes on internally within the school system, nor is it my business, but I can't imagine any circumstances in which an employee is fired, short of an illegality, without giving that person a chance to be given counsel and to rectify whatever the problem is," Dempsey said. "I have worked with five school superintendents in my 20 plus years at Sandhills, and have liked them all, but I have never worked with one as well as I have with Bob Grimesey.

"I am told that the wish for his ⁷⁹departure is not unanimous among board members, but still, if he leaves, it will be a sad day for me personally and for the advancement of educational goals in which Bob is so involved."

Corso, interviewed Wednesday, said such a move to oust Grimesey "poisons the well."

"It damages the relationship between the college and the school system," he said. "Who are they going to bring in in this environment? Who is going to want to work with a group that is that dysfunctional? I think this sets us back years.

"This decision makes no sense. I think he's a teacher's advocate and God knows we need one. I think the school board should reconsider this action.

"Parents, teachers, business leaders and community leaders are all weighing in on this, and they're not on the school board's side. So what kind of hubris is driving this kind of action? It makes no sense. The school board should be held accountable for this decision because it's having a detrimental effect on our community."

The strongest outrage, however, came from parents, teachers and even former board members.

Pinehurst attorney Jennifer Garner, herself a former school board member and chairwoman, posted a letter she sent to board members:

"First, I am very upset with the time you have chosen to hold such a meeting. You know this is the week of major testing in your schools," Garner wrote, voicing the concerns many parents have expressed about an early morning weekday meeting during the week virtually all students are taking end-of-year tests. "Students, staff and parents are already stressed to the max this week. Teachers and support staff cannot leave their school positions to come to central office to be seen and heard in their support of their superintendent.

"As you can imagine being a former board member myself, I have heard from all kinds of community members and school staff and kept up with all social media posts and news reports, I have yet to see ANY posts supporting the firing of Dr. Grimesey. Not one. You will have a lot to answer for especially come election time. We have lost enough teaching staff in this system already and you are about to lose many more over this decision."

One Facebook site that has been extremely active in the last 24 hours has been Parents for Moore, a public group normally reserved for routine school matters. Parents have taken to it in droves to express their ire and frustration at this week's turn of events.

Also on Parents for Moore, Katrina Denza posted her letter to board members:

"After Dr. Spence resigned, I spoke before you urging you to consider teacher attrition while looking for the right candidate. I urged you to find the person who would support and respect our teachers, treat them like the professionals they are, allow them to concentrate on teaching rather than perform extraneous duties that add little benefit to the educational system as a whole. I urged you to find the person who would bring the Moore County School system back to the wonderfully progressive entity it once was.

"After seeing Dr. Grimesey in the position for this past year, I felt confident I was heard and my request was considered.

"I have served as a Key Communicator for two years, an AIG Parent Advisory Council member for two years, and this last year I served as a Parent Advisory Council member. Although I have always felt as if my opinions have been heard, this last year with Dr. Grimesey as superintendent, was the first year I felt not only was my feedback heard, but that it was important, and when there were concerns such as with the Chromebook Rollout, those concerns were taken seriously and steps were taken to rectify the issues.

"Teachers are leaving and have left this county because of misguided policies and unhealthy working conditions created by a central office staff member. These were excellent, highly educated teachers we have forever lost. I, along with many, many other parents, was counting on Dr. Grimesey to help the county with this serious attrition problem.

"The political environment statewide has made teaching here unattractive. My youngest son has had too many substitute teachers lately. We simply cannot afford to lose any more teachers.

"I know you realize we live in a different time and social media allows for a transparency never before experienced. Parents know and understand a lot more about the goings on in central office than ever before. Every decision you make will not only affect every child in this county but will also be held up for scrutiny. It is imperative you make the right decision tomorrow.

Please. I urge you to reconsider. Moore County Schools cannot afford to lose an asset like Dr. Bob Grimesey."

Parent Mary Lovett: "I can personally tell you that in all the school systems I have been in (many because we are a Military family) I have never had a superintendent come and TALK to students and see how they are feeling and what their concerns are. And this man really means it! He wants to know what they are feeling and how school is going for them. He wants to know about all the ridiculous testing that these children are put through and what they think about it.

"Dr. Grimesey has been the one small hope for this school system. He is personable and he cares. My heart is breaking for the students and teachers."

Parent Kate Tracy: "Dr. Grimesey and I had one interaction this year. Bus route troubles on my children's first day this year caused me to write an angry email. Many parents have done such a thing at one time or another.

"For kicks, I cc'ed Dr. Grimesey, never expecting his involvement in such a small issue (huge to my family but small nonetheless). This Superintendent emailed me back almost immediately. His response was apologetic, sensitive, and professional. The next evening he emailed again, to find out if the troubles were resolved. This depth of responsibility was surely not limited to checking in with me. That interaction, and the positive publicity received by Moore County Schools throughout this year, led me to regard Dr. Grimesey as a competent, active, and well-respected leader.

Teacher Ashley Peschieri: "Since starting in 2010 I have seen not one, not two, but three superintendents. Out of all of the superintendents I have ever encountered as a teacher I have never seen someone so passionate as "Dr. Bob." He actually listens to the community (teachers, students and parents)."

From former Moore County teacher Susanne Cooper: "Dr. Grimesey was brought into this school system to improve morale and move our system forward. He has been quite responsive to communication from me regarding several issues, and he took it upon himself to accept an invitation to the Moore County Invitational Swim Meet, the first superintendent to show up on a holiday weekend to cheer on Pinecrest and Union Pines swimmers. He has taken the time to listen and get a feel for our schools and an understanding of our system's issues and challenges."

Parent Laura Rubin: "Last month, I was honored to have been Volunteer of the Month for MCS. Dr. Grimesey has played a large part in inspiring me to want to do more for my daughter's school. He created a Parent Advisory Committee, and with it a forum for parents to ask questions and be involved on a new level. I found this energizing, causing me to search for new ways to serve my school and community."

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47 comments:

David Lambert87 posted at 4:39 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.



Posts: 32

79
"From the numerous business people and community leaders I've spoken to in the past 24 hours, the five members of this coup d'etat may be the most widely hated and despised people in Moore County,"

WOW.

And Dr. Bob the most liked. He could be president right now as far as Moore County is concerned.

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Faucette posted at 5:04 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.



Posts: 1

I agree, we need to oust the five that don't want to earn their keep. Farren, Lang, Black, Cameron and Carlson need to hit the road.

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amommyandteacher posted at 11:30 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 9

Black Especially!!! No one ever votes for her-- but some how she always wins..... The rumor is The superintendent want to fire some people up there like kathy kennedy and she did not like that! Someone also said that there was a facebook post of her havin a night with a few other board members in greensboro... probably on our tax money, writing it off as a business expense!

I wrote a letter to all of the BOW members. I think this is sneaky and they really do not want to hear what the public wants to say.

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Walter B Bull Jr posted at 5:07 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 65

The school board group led by Kathy Farren need to resign.

The senior staff member who is upset with a one year contract proposal- Kathy Kennedy needs to resign and take her autocratic style to a system large enough to absorb the friction that she causes, Susan Purser needs to be reminded that she has left the area and I m deeply disappointed in the alleged involvement of some others whom I thought put the kids first.

The outpouring of support for the obviously talented Dr Bob reminds me that the public is a lot smarter than we give them credit for being.

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BREVARD posted at 5:10 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 7 These five BOE members' action will ruin the reputation of Moore County Schools and also Moore County. We can't have that. Keep writing to them please.

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Redshesaid posted at 5:21 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 5 First, fire Kathy Kennedy since she is the force behind attempting to oust Dr. Grimesey and then have certain board members resign as well. If they don't resign then remember their names come election 2016 and 2018.

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amommyandteacher posted at 11:33 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 9 I think we need some mommys in there to serve on the BOE!! HECK I would run if it meant one of them is out!! I will not vote for ANY OF THEM --- If Bob gets fired... I will start a petition on not to vote for those old liberals!

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blessherheartagain posted at 9:47 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 92 Not a fan of any of these.. believe thye have hurt our school system more than help it... but believe me they are not liberals.

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MsT posted at 5:22 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 2 Dr. Bob is widely liked and respected by teachers and students. Unless he has committed some criminal act, he should be allowed to stay in his job and continue cleaning house. Now as for the board members ...some of you are up for election...and We the People...are not pleased.

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amommyandteacher posted at 11:31 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 9 Truly AGREE

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blessherheartagain posted at 9:47 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 92 Absolutely agree.

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embarrassed posted at 5:29 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 4

Please go to the Moore County Schools website and look at all the well-organized, detailed information provided to the public. Of particular interest, please visit the section related to the board of education. Check out their core beliefs:

We believe:

- * "We build community"
- * "We are accountable both to those we serve and for what we do"
- * "We are partners in learning with students, staff, parents and community"
- * "We develop leaders"
- * "We provide a safe learning environment"
- * "We secure and strategically allocate resources"

Then please look at the organizational chart. I do believe there are a few errors in that chart based in the current actions of the BOE. Apparently, the top group "community" should be located below the Board, as the pleas of the parents, citizens, business leaders and other patrons have no say beyond election day. I am happy to see at least that they are willing to put their names out there so the public will be able to determine who is truly

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embarrassed posted at 5:34 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 4

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We believe:

- * "We build community"
- * "We are accountable both to those we serve and for what we do"
- * "We are partners in learning with students, staff, parents and community"
- * "We develop leaders"
- * "We provide a safe learning environment"
- * "We secure and strategically allocate resources"

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korbinsnana posted at 5:41 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 1

If I didn't have to administer EOGs tomorrow, I would be at the Administrative Building protesting the "ousting" of Dr. Bob-a ray of sunshine for teachers, students and the community. What a way to end the year-a cloud of gloominess across the county.

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anotherconcernedparent posted at 8:01 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Interest ng...
 Posts: 3 Just read the following post on facebook (tried to copy paste the actual post but wasn't able)...hmmmm????
 Whoever shared it said the following, "sent to me by an undisclosed source, so sharing. In picture I see two current board members , former superintendent, secretary to superintenant, all who are allegedly supporting Dr. Grimesey's firing and all who alledgedly support Dr. Kathy Kennedy a senior staff member....visiting on Sunday."
 It appears as though the picture was posted on Kathy Farren's FB page this past Sunday. Tagged in the post/picture are Laura Kelly Lang and Catherine B. McRae. Her post reads, "Fun with friends in Greensboro! Thanks Susan for the great hospitality." "#neededbreak #keepingthefriendshipalive"

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79

SuzQ64 posted at 6:15 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

The old saying certainly applies to this situation "I smell a rat". This 8AM meeting tomorrow, June 4th, at the central building should be postponed. Give everyone a chance to attend. The public nor the teachers are being allowed to attend. This old boys club really sickens me, the equivalent of a pack of hyena . How embarrassing and what an outrage! I will be there.

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amommyandteacher posted at 11:36 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

So the public isnt allowed???? Cause I would be there if we could be allowed... It should be the public's choice!!! Unless Bob did something unlawful.... there is NO REASON to fire him!!!!

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Redshesaid posted at 6:26 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

WRAL supports De. Grimesey. I will be attending the meeting tomorrow morning. This is an outrage for our education community.

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sosadwearehere posted at 6:35 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.



Thanks to all those in the community that can act as our voice as we attend to our students and families during testing

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mcsteacher09 posted at 6:52 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 1

What a sneaky way to conduct the business at hand. Since the beginning of this school year, Dr. Bob has been friendly and personable with everyone. He is down to earth, approachable, and does not ride in on his high horse to attack and intimidate teachers. Everyone with a vested interest in our schools and children, need to advocate to keep Dr. Bob. Kathy Kennedy and certain members of her "team" need to get back on their brooms and return to Cumberland County. Why do they need to fly in daily and continue to destroy our school system? Teachers have left this county in large numbers over the past few years either as a result of the intimidation tactics of the IDI team, or a certain friend of Kennedy's who ran off many teachers from Pinecrest. When people complained about her, she got a promotion because the BOE protects Kennedy and her friends. Now, it all makes sense how someone can bully teachers, students and parents and get away with it after formal complaints were made. In the end, our students and children will suffer the consequences of these 5 board members. I will continue teaching for Moore County because this is where my children will attend school, but that is the only reason I will stay.

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read more (1 more line)

MC Native posted at 9:30 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 2

And the sad part is that on more than one occasion, well-respected and highly qualified Moore County educators were passed over for positions that were filled by Kennedy's Cumberland County cronies (Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, ELA Specialist, Principal). It is not Dr. Grimesey that needs to go! I applaud the teachers of Moore County for finally speaking out for themselves and our students!

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amommyandteacher posted at 11:38 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 9

i think TEACHERS need to not go to work tomorrow.... and go to the meeting... I know this is highly not going to happen because teachers are there for the students and dont have time for this drama!

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teachermom posted at 12:00 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 3

I'm glad I'm not the only one who has seen flaws in the system. Do they not realize how obvious the nepotism is in MCS? Teachers talk to each other and when people share their stories and experiences, we start connecting the dots to pinpoint the real problems.

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teachermom posted at 11:55 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 3

I'm curious to know if this person is someone with whom I'm familiar. If it is, may they follow KK out of the system. A lot of people are unhappy, but scared of backlash for speaking up.

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sosad4kids posted at 7:22 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 2

What an outrage! It's time to get rid of the politics and put our kids first. This once was a great system- before Russo, Purser, and Kennedy- and it is time to restore this county to a place that you want to raise and educate your children in. "No child left behind"? What a joke! Under the aforementioned " leaders' guidance, MCS has left so many behind. "GROWING TO GREATNESS" ,yeah right. More like "One size fits all", especially in some people's pockets!

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amommyandteacher posted at 11:40 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 9

Yes, I didnt care for Purser.... she was not someone you could talk to, but Dr. Bob is!! This is really going to cause a uproar..... something needs to be done.... wonder if the news crews can join

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louisgregory posted at 8:26 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 4

I have limited knowledge of the issue being discussed, but cannot imagine how the board will be able to justify the removal of Superintendent Grimesey. My discussions with him has led me to believe he is an intelligent individual, who genuinely cares about those we treasure most - our students.

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dedicatedtokids posted at 8:42 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 7

The following is part of an article describing Dr. Bob's departure from Orange County Schools to take his new position in Moore County in order for him to be close to his son. Shame on those of you, MCS BOE members, who cannot see what a gift Moore County received when Dr. Bob chose to come to our school district. How foolish to risk losing such talent for secret and unspoken agendas and through under-handed machinations that exclude the very people who work hardest for our students from being included in this decision. This man is an outstanding educator and is truly valued and appreciated by those who can recognize the humble and caring individual he is. I am proud to call Dr. Bob my Superintendent. I beg you to stay, Dr. Bob!! The children and teachers of Moore County need you. That the children recognize you and cry out "Hey, that's Dr. Bob! I like him!" is a testimony to the powerful and positive impact you have had. In all my years of teaching I have never known a Superintendent of Schools to be recognized and looked up to by students of all ages.
http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/departing-school-chief-lauded/article_beee5083-38d9-559e-8d9e-3b57ad713abd.html

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Rob13 posted at 8:54 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 1

I can't believe that we have hit rock bottom.

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Godisgood posted at 9:19 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 4

here is he picture of past superintendent susan purser along with current board member kathy farren

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1695313020689060&set=gm.471468729695646&type=1&theater>

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Lord of the Flies posted at 10:06 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 1

I am so disappointed in the five school board members that have been "lured" in by the shenanigans of Kathy Kennedy. You took the bait and she has reeled you in...hook, line and sinker. Keep in mind though, when it comes to the next election of school board members...there are other fish in the sea...that ~~js~~...if a shark doesn't get you first.

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Wecantstopwewontstop posted at 10:11 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 2

http://www.klkconsultinginc.com/about_us.html How does "senior staff" have time to do consulting and plan a coup? That's impressive.

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hd posted at 7:50 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 50

If her company consults for Moore County, that is a conflict of interest and should be reported to the state. Also, she lives in Fayetteville, dont you have to be a Moore county resident to hold a Moore county position?

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Wecantstopwewontstop posted at 10:19 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 2

Oh! And lead the IDI- forgot about that.....

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CSmithson posted at 10:26 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 44

Sorry butt representation from elected officials. Forget the SPECIFIC politics of the whole thing for a minute. The history of the MCBOE in the last 10 ears has been shameful if you give a rat's bottom about the kids).

They, as a whole, don't' give a SNOT about the children who utse the system.

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camille posted at 10:32 pm on Wed, Jun 3, 2015.

Posts: 1

Shame on the board for having an 8 AM meeting. Obviously they do not have the intestinal fortitude to face those in disagreement with them, but I think they will be surprised at the turnout..

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amommyandteacher posted at 12:02 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

I will be there!!!

Posts: 9

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SeniorLee posted at 12:59 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Recall and fire and keep Dr. Bob.

Posts: 117

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CommonSenseGuy posted at 5:31 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

So a 1 year contract is good enough for teachers but Kathy Kennedy thinks she is entitled to a long term one? The only thing she is entitled to is being shown the door and being told "Don't let it hit ya where the good Lord split ya!"

Posts: 3

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Ataxpayer posted at 8:01 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Has anyone looked into how much money Kathy Kennedy spent on revamping the Ed Center? My understanding is she has an office there that she rarely uses.

Posts: 5

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Stillhope posted at 8:12 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Perhaps an investigation by the Attorney General is warranted since it seems there are personal agendas of those on the BOE at play here, not to mention senior personnel within the School Board. I suspect the roaches would scatter when the light is shined upon their plan by subpoenas and depositions conducted by the State. This is clearly an injustice that they are attempting to carry out. Dr. Bob sounds just like what this county needs to bring it's education system to an appropriate level. I know many great teachers who have left the system because they just couldn't put up with the nonsense from senior level personnel. You can't keep this up because the system will continue to tank and then no one will want to move into this county due to a collapsing school system. Think about your property values slipping away when word is out that the school system is untenable in Moore County.

Posts: 3

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Mythreekids posted at 9:48 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Buzz at the meeting this morning is that that group met with Susan Purser in Greensboro over the weekend to ask her to serve as interim Superintendent. Wow. Meeting is now moved to the Old Courthouse in Carthage. So many people showed up to the meeting there was standing room only on the outside. Some passionate people have spoken this day in support of the awesome man. Some talk also about researching a recall of Board Members and if not, forcing them to resign. Either way, we need to do some serious cocommunity watch of this arm of our County going forward.

Posts: 28

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SonsofLiberty72 posted at 11:28 am on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 11

What will it take to force a recall of the five board members who voted this morning for the ousting of Dr. Bob? This is a tragedy of epic proportion and the peoples voices need to be heard at the polls!

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Ataxpayer posted at 12:45 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 5

Time for recall vote on the board.

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bathwalker posted at 2:12 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

79

Posts: 1

As I retired MCS teacher, I was thrilled with Dr. Bob as our new superintendent. He listened to me as I explained that in my 9 years in Moore County Schools I had 7 initiatives - none that were followed to fruition. The amount of time teachers put into implementing these initiatives was staggering. With the arrival of Kathy Kennedy here came another initiative. Since that time I have watched as wonderful teachers chose to leave. Dr. Bob was the ONLY person who really listened to the teachers AND the students. When was the last (or first) time someone saw Kathy Kennedy on the floor listening to children read - Dr. Bob did it weekly. It is a sad day for the students, teachers, and parents of Moore County

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dedicatedtokids posted at 3:40 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 7

My heart is broken. The Board's decision today is a truly devastating blow to the families, teachers, students and community of Moore County. I can only hope that some measure of good will come from this if only bringing to light the wrongdoings of those who hold enough power to override the will and desire of the teachers, families, community members and voting citizens of Moore County. As teachers we are mystified at how a group of people who call themselves our supporters could so blatantly refuse to see, hear and be moved in their hearts to reconsider their decision and consider our opinions. To the Board members who held out and supported Dr. Grimesey, I commend you for doing what was right and just. I commend you for listening to your community and working to support us. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your actions give me hope that we can effect a change for the good from this tragic loss. After reading Dr. Bob's Open Letter to the People of Moore County I am assured that the faith I had placed in Dr. Grimesey was well deserved and that he is and will continue to be a man of integrity, kindness and wisdom with a true heart for the calling of education. We are so fortunate to have had the chance to work with him and we were

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Ataxpayer posted at 4:54 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 5

I feel for everyone in the Moore County school system as long as Kathy Kennedy remains it will not be safe for anyone to speak their mind. She truly needs to go!

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Our Editorial: Gang of Five Should Resign

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Posted: Thursday, June 4, 2015 6:40 pm

37 comments

The following is to be The Pilot's front-page editorial:

The abrupt and indefensible firing of Moore County Schools Superintendent Bob Grimesey by a cabal of five school board members stinks worse than a chicken truck on a hot day.

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The perpetrators who caused such mayhem and such loss of faith in the community at large should resign. Failing that, the newly elected board members who voted for this tremendous waste of time, talent and treasure should be subjected to a recall election.

Seldom in anyone's memory has any local action ignited such a firestorm of universal condemnation. All you have to do is read the endless stream of outraged comments on The Pilot's website. Or listen to the hundreds of angry residents who poured out for Thursday morning's school board meeting in Carthage — so many that the fire marshal felt compelled to move the whole operation to the much larger commissioners' chambers in the old county courthouse. And even those 400 seats all but overflowed.

Young and old, black and white, northern Moore and southern, parents and teachers, Republicans and Democrats — all were totally united in their disgust. It's hard to imagine how this board can regain the trust of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, Sandhills Community College, its 1,720 employees, and its 13,130 students — as well as their parents — without the swift ouster of these board members.

Even worse, now that the dirty deed has been done, all of the questionable details of secret meetings and romantic encounters are coming to light.

Grimesey's dismissal was long in the plotting. And the five-member alliance was aided —

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in part — by the personal romantic relationship between board members Becky Carlson and Ben Cameron. That certainly calls into question their judgment and the integrity of the 5-3 vote to fire Grimesey.

How did the Gang of Five coordinate all of their activities without violating the North Carolina Open Meetings Law? Inquiring minds would like to know.

To all appearances, the only people who were unhappy with Grimesey's job performance in the first place were a few educators in the system headquarters — particularly some in high positions whose feet he held to the fire and whose contracts he limited to one year as a way of motivating them to share in his vision for the school system's operations. (Talk about a sense of entitlement. Most of the working public would saw off a body part for a one-year contract.)

Particularly open to question is the role of Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy, who is close friends with board members Kathy Farren and Laura Lang. There would appear to have been some well-poisoning going on in the central office, which is simply unacceptable — and a recipe for sending morale into the basement. Kennedy's effectiveness as an administrator has been so severely tarnished by the sad episode that she too would be wise to tender her resignation.

Farren and Lang are two of the five board members who voted for getting rid of Grimesey. The other three are Carlson, Cameron and Sue Black. Voting against were Bruce Cunningham, Charles Lambert and Ed Dennison. It is worth noting that the yes-no vote split along gender lines — except for Cameron, who is involved in a relationship with Carlson.


Cunningham deserves praise for the way he presided over the tense various phases of this meeting. The entire misbegotten procedure obviously left a bad taste in his mouth. But in his role as chairman, he did what he had to do to preserve order and keep things moving — often over yells and catcalls and boos and shaking fists.

Among the more maddening aspects of this miscarriage of justice is the fact that those who so blithely deprived Grimesey of his job gave no reasons whatsoever for doing so. Clearly, they are limited by law in what they can say. But their attitude of "trust us, we know what we're doing" just doesn't cut it. Their accounts of his supposed sins, gathered from back-channel sources, have proven untrue or exaggerated.

Now that this terrible damage has been done, where do we go from here?

If the five choose not to resign, then the rest of us should pursue the avenue suggested by an outraged John Dempsey, president of Sandhills Community College, who stood to suggest that a recall procedure be pursued.

This much seems clear: If those who perpetrated this action think Thursday's raging storm will blow over soon, they are surely wrong in that as well.

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37 comments:

davidlambert87 posted at 6:59 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 32

This just got real.

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nmhill posted at 7:07 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Annnnnd.. BOOM. Drop. The. Mic.

Posts: 1

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Volgirl7777 posted at 7:20 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Absolutely 100% agree with the statements made here. It's blatantly obvious that the infamous five have a personal agenda and care nothing about our children's education. This is an abuse of power and they all should be booted!

Posts: 26

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RLYlll posted at 7:27 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Great read. Unfortunately Moore County has no avenue for recall of Board Members...just remember this action and speak with your vote...if the gang of five is foolish enough to run again.

Posts: 2

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Regular Joe posted at 7:29 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Gutsy editorial. Appreciate the frankness! Sure clears up a few things, doesn't it? No matter what comes to light, this has been a mean-spirited, underhanded spectacle. Shame on those BOE members that have failed to conduct themselves with integrity. If a recall is a possibility, sure would be nice.

Posts: 15

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Klockamy78 posted at 7:36 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Thank you for being brave enough to actually name those at fault! There are so many MCS employees who have been made to be silent for years out of fear of repercussions from the Central Office. I was beyond happy to see the staff member specifically named so the community finally knows who is at the center of not just this debacle but years of torment.

Posts: 2

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Moco75 posted at 8:00 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

The level of hubris demonstrated by the Gang of Five is pathetic. They exist to serve the people of Moore County. Yet they proved today that they serve their own self interests and do the bidding of Kathy Kennedy, a Cumberland County carpetbagger. Our students and teachers deserve better...they deserve Dr. Bob.

Posts: 1

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Jbellmore posted at 8:26 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

In all this mess...I worry about the children once again. A child will read this and find out personal information about his/her mother's romantic relationships. I support teachers and especially Dr. Bob. However, I support children more. I get what you're saying...I do. Please don't publicly out

Posts: 1

romantic relationships when children are in the home. This is painful for a child on so many levels. And yes...my 8th graders knew more about this than I did by 2:30 and reviewing for an upcoming EOG was impossible. As if the timing wasn't bad enough...

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John Nagy posted at 9:23 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 66

STAFF

J, normally I'd agree with you 100 percent. We didn't do this lightly or for the sake of being tawdry. The relationship in question is material to this decision Thursday and calls into question the propriety and independence of previous votes and those to come. Such a relationship is not a violation of board policy, per se, but it at the very least raises a significant question. Board members must exercise their own best, independent judgement in all decisions, and you can't say a personal romantic relationship involving two elected officials on the same board doesn't inject the possibility of cohesive and compromised voting, their assurances to the contrary. So that's why we mention that. And yes, I too have an 8th grader who was far more in tune on this than I originally.

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Concernedrent posted at 8:31 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 1

It should also be said that a few of the Gang of 5 have been using their position to get extra tickets for their children's graduation at Pinecrest. Each graduating student gets 4 tickets but board members are asking for 8 to 12. Is this fair?

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Concerned110 posted at 9:11 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 2

Can anyone from Cumberland Co shed light on KKs departure from that office? have heard lots of rumors but not much fact.

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scotlase49 posted at 9:30 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 21

Sounds like the gang of 5 needs to talk to a lawyer because I smell legal action coming. Then ALL the juicy details will come out for the world to see.

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louisgregory posted at 9:38 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 4

I am disappointed and concerned. This should of never happened. I was hoping the board would have listened to the people before they dismissed Dr. Grimesey. Yes, I agree with the editorial . . . "this will not blow over soon."

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Twln2 posted at 9:55 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 1

We as citizens of Moore County have the right to know why the Superintendent was fired. We are essentially the employers of the BOE since we elect them! So did they do our bidding or their personal bidding in this situation? Looks very personal to me when you state that an upper "educrat" is personal friends with two board members and two others are having a romance! This is ludicrous! And taxpayers want to know why teachers are leaving Moore County to teach elsewhere? I think that answer is pretty clear.

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beety posted at 10:00 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 2

My question is: Does Dr. Bob have legal recourse? Especially since in his own words: "I still don't know what I did (to get fired)," What can he/we do to get him reinstated?

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bebe posted at 10:04 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 59

"In all this mess...I worry about the children once again. A child will read this and find out personal information about his/her mother's romantic relationships."

It's a shame and very sad that a total stranger would be more concerned about these two people's children than the couple themselves.

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Babaroni posted at 10:49 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 5

You think their kids don't know about their relationship, when most of the town knows? It's not like they hare tried to hide it very well. Give me a break!

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SandyGM posted at 10:15 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 1

I have been reading (on Facebook) tonight comments from teachers across the state and to a person, they are aghast at the actions of the Moore County gang of five. Most had seen the video of Dr. Bob's speech at the end of the meeting and one of them made a great comment "this is the kind of educator I always wanted to work with. Forget the rest of the junk, it is about the kids."

I do not have kids in school in Moore County, but I pay taxes and have been proud of the reputation of our schools. How sad this is even for those of us on the fringes.

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maddog posted at 10:24 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 17

I appreciate the frankness stated here. It is indeed a shame that 5 people have colluded to the extent of ignoring the voices of so many concerned citizens and without any regard to the resulting collateral damage. This fiasco may well set the county back several years. Resignations would be a step in the right direction, but I don't see that happening. In fact, they do have enough voting clout to foist their favorite aspiring superintendent upon the county before they're finished. They may be just getting started.

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Babaroni posted at 10:44 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 5

Carlson and Cameron's relationship is definitely worth mentioning! It gives insight on the way these two members vote. It's a shame their children may be negatively affected by their actions; however, they are public officials and they should have thought about this prior to executing very poor judgement. I personally don't think their relationship is the worst thing, it's their poor character, lack of professionalism, and personal bias in regards to Dr. Bob's firing that is appalling. If they do not want their children upset, they need to be better role models. The staff at the Pilot is just doing their job, reporting the facts.

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SeniorLee posted at 10:50 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 117

Can our Rep. in Raleigh get a special bill or law passed that would allow a recall election to be held before the MSB hold another meeting. Hopefully Dr. Upchurch will fire from the top down several layers of folks that are not friends of Moore County teachers and students. The citizens of this county are fed up with this fiasco.

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Walter B Bull Jr posted at 11:14 pm on Thu, Jun 4, 2015.

Posts: 65

There may be a way to arrange for a recall election so that this matter is handled before all the momentum generated with Dr. Bob careens off the road.
Larry Upchurch, a nice but pedestrian executive, is a rather obvious place holder and Ms. Kennedy is probably measuring the superintendent's office for new drapes.
Calling the five board members names and doing nothing is if there may be a legal challenge to recall is not an option for the really involved citizen.
E mail your support for recall to the five commissioners, Jamie Boles and Dr. John Dempsey. The people have to continue to be loud and demanding. This is too important for the kids and this county's future.

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Erbschloe posted at 1:48 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 1

In the Internet age, county level school administrators couldn't be more irrelevant. Any attempt to frame events as "a step back" are really just "looking back".
Get your kids a passport and an iPad.

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dfuquay posted at 4:54 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 1

Just call an emergency meeting of the BOE and offer the man his job back. Apologize, give him a 10% raise for pain and suffering, and let him go back to work. Then, all 5 of you resign immediately. That rights the wrong.

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Lenny Bo posted at 8:32 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 97

Get out your brooms - time to sweep out the disgusting five!

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raven posted at 6:46 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 47

Maybe teachers should use this incident as a teaching lesson with their students, possibly a lesson on "local corruption and small town politics". Maybe upon completion of said lesson, the teachers could explain how the student's voices can be heard via letters and signatures?
Instead of voicing our opinions on this website, which obviously don't matter to "the5", maybe if they heard directly from the students and we're held to

answer to them, them would see the error of their ways...

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Walter B Bull Jr posted at 8:09 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 65

Great editorial position Pilot. This is Moore County's 9-11 and we all need to focus on the future for our kids. We don't need bad policy that is made in the backyard sandbox.

How Bruce Cunningham, Charles Lambert and Ed Dennison missed all this in the making I don't know and the Editor's comments about open meeting laws is right on target.

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FMBD2 posted at 8:09 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 2

I agree with dfuquay: "Apologize, give him a 10% raise for pain and suffering, and let him go back to work. Then, all 5 of you resign immediately. That rights the wrong." Show courage. That would be a lesson our students could take from this debacle. Great reporting, Pilot. Excellent opinion piece, John Nagy. Keep up the good work. Hold our elected officials accountable. Moore County students and teachers deserve a higher standard.

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t/m 123 posted at 8:15 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 4

True leadership is needed to replace these clowns, I hope for good people who listen and care to step forward following in the footsteps of one of my heroes, Bruce Cunningham.

It is clear from all of the comments and views expressed that the citizens of Moore County would appreciate all five bullies on the school board voluntarily step down: please do the right thing, make this easier and agree to step aside. Or we will find another way: bottom line, our assessment is you are out and we look forward to welcoming new leadership to the school board.

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tlbernett posted at 8:16 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 2

This is a gross misuse of power for blatant self-serving reasons by public officials who have used their office for personal agendas without regard for their sworn duty.

As a citizen and a taxpayer, I call for the immediate resignation of the board members in question, and the reinstatement of the Superintendent. If the board members refuse resignation, then I call for the formation of a citizens' committee to investigate applicable state statutes for the purpose of taking legal action against the board members in question.

This travesty must not be allowed to stand unchallenged.

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SonsofLiberty72 posted at 9:12 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 11

Hear, hear!!!

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Callmeforever posted at 8:24 am on Fri, Jun 5, 2015.

Posts: 2

If you think Larry Upchurch is going to fire anyone you had better think again. He is one of the good old boys. He is going to do everything the board

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MOORE**

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.**

**JAMES L. BOLES, JR. Individually and as)
a Member of the North Carolina House of)
Representatives,)**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**THE MOORE COUNTY BOARD OF)
EDUCATION,)**

Defendants.)

**MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER AND
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

PLAINTIFF, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby moves for a Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction to prohibit the Defendant from hiring a permanent replacement for the position of Superintendent pending further orders of this court.

In support of this motion, the Plaintiff states unto the Court as follows:

1. The Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of Moore County, North Carolina.
2. The Plaintiff is the duly elected Representative of the North Carolina House of Representatives for District 52, which includes the County of Moore.
3. The Defendant Moore County Board of Education is a body politic with its principal office and place of business in Carthage, North Carolina.
4. The Moore County Board of Education is responsible for, among other things, the hiring and retention of the Superintendent for Moore County Schools.
5. The Defendant hired Dr. Robert Grimesey to serve as the Superintendent of Moore County Schools on or about July 1, 2014. Dr. Grimesey served as Moore County School's Superintendent from July 1, 2014 until June 4, 2015 at which time his employment was terminated by a vote of five to three.

6. At all relevant times during his employment, Dr. Grimesey has performed his duties and responsibilities in a competent and professional and compassionate manner and has received the support of Moore County citizens including teachers, students and business leaders.

7. The five school board members that voted to terminate Dr. Grimesey's employment are Kathy Farren, Laura Lang, Ben Cameron, Becky S. Carlson, and Sue Black. The three board members who opposed Dr. Grimesey's termination were Bruce Cunningham, Charles R. Lambert and Ed Dennison.

8. In the Plaintiff's capacity as the elected representative of the people of Moore County, Representative Boles has thoroughly reviewed the circumstances surrounding the termination of Dr. Grimesey as well as the reaction of the Moore County community, including its teachers, students, parents and community leaders. Based upon this review, the Plaintiff has concluded that there is overwhelming support for Dr. Grimesey and overwhelming opposition to the actions of Board Members Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black.

9. The Plaintiff has further concluded that the actions of the Moore County Board of Education, through a majority of its members, is contrary to the strong wishes and desires of the Moore County citizens, and the termination of Dr. Grimesey will have a detrimental effect on the community including, but not limited to, (1) the loss of a highly respected and talented Superintendant, (2) the loss of teachers who oppose the actions of the majority of the Moore County Board of Education; (3) the disruption of continuity in the classrooms of Moore County; (4) negative financial impact on the budget of the Moore County School System related to the unjustified termination of Dr. Grimesey; and (5) the detrimental effect on the good reputation of Moore County and the impact this action will have on the County's ability to hire a competent Superintendent in the future.

10. Upon information and belief, the actions of Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson

and Black were motivated by personal animosity towards Dr. Grimesey and personal favoritism and affiliation with Kathy Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent, who upon information and belief, sought the job of Moore County Superintendant when it became available.

11. The conduct and actions of Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black acting as a majority of the Moore County Board of Education, was not only inconsistent with their duty and responsibility to represent the citizens of Moore County but also inconsistent with what is clearly within the best interest of Moore County and its schools.

12. In the Plaintiff's capacity as the duly elected Representative of the citizens of Moore County in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Plaintiff intends to introduce a Local Bill on Monday, June 8, 2015, which seeks a recall all members of the Moore County Board of Education. The purpose of introducing the Local Bill is to protect the best interests of the citizens of Moore County and to challenge the actions of the Board Members. Plaintiff has confidence that the Local Bill could be passed by July 1, 2015. If the Bill passes, it would place a recall in the hands of the Moore County voters during the November 2015 election. If the recall passes, the Board Members who currently sit on the Moore County Board of Education would be removed.

13. If the Moore County voters vote in favor of the recall, pursuant to existing law, the Moore County Commissioners would appoint their replacements and those individuals would serve until the election of November 2016.

14. Based upon the actions of Farren, Lang, Cameron, Carlson and Black and based upon the improper motive relating to the unjustified termination of Dr. Grimesey, the Plaintiff, as well as the citizens of Moore County, is concerned that these five Board Members, acting as the majority of the Moore County Board of Education, will continue to act in a manner which is inconsistent with the wishes and directives of their constituency, including but not limited to, hiring a permanent replacement for the the Superintendent

position.

15. Upon information and belief, the Moore County Board of Education has voted to permit Larry Upchurch to serve as an interim Superintendent pending further action of the Moore County Board of Education. Plaintiff is concerned that this further action may include an additional decision detrimental to Moore County, its students, teachers and parents.

16. Plaintiff is also of the position that the actions of the majority of the School Board could further impact the financial well-being of the Moore County school system if the majority of the Board votes in favor of hiring a permanent Superintendent who would require compensation at a high level and would possibly be subject to removal if the recall vote is successful. Based upon the clear and unequivocal support for Dr. Grimesey from the citizens of Moore County, there is an extremely high probability that the recall vote would pass and the members who voted in favor of Dr. Grimesey's termination would no longer be serving on the Board. There is also a very high probability that when the Board is removed, the County Commissioners would appoint school board members who would act in the best interest of Moore County.

17. There is a likelihood that the Plaintiff will succeed not only on the merits of his claim that the actions of the majority of the School Board were both arbitrary and capricious but also succeed, through a recall vote, in removing the members of the Moore County Board of Education.

18. Both the Plaintiff and the citizens and residents of Moore County will be irreparably harmed if the Defendant is permitted to hire a permanent replacement for Dr. Grimesey prior to the election of November 2015 and subsequent appointment of new Board members in that (1) the Moore County Board of Education will continue to pay salaries for two individuals for the same position at the expense of the Moore County taxpayers; (2) the Moore County School System will experience an extreme and unprecedented reduction in valuable teachers who adamantly oppose the actions of the majority of the Board; (3) the

students of Moore County will also suffer as a result of teachers leaving the school system as a result of the termination of Dr. Grimesey and the teachers' lack of trust and support for the Moore County Board of Education; and (4) the financial burden on the Moore County School System if the Board hires a permanent Superintendent, which potentially could be Kathy Kennedy, and the new superintendant is subject to dismissal and a large payout after the recall vote for the appointment by the Moore County Commissioners.

19. The actions of the Moore County Board of Education was both arbitrary and capricious and contrary to the overwhelming popular opinion of the Moore County citizens.

20. Plaintiff seeks a Declaration from this Court that the conduct of the Moore County Board of Education was both arbitrary and capricious in the termination of Dr. Grimesey.

21. Plaintiff further seeks by separate motion a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction prohibiting the Moore County Board of Education from hiring a permanent replacement for Dr. Grimesey until the recall vote has been completed in November 2015 and if successful, the appointment of new members of the Board has been completed.

22. Plaintiff also seeks a Writ of Mandamus and an Order from this Court that the conduct of the Defendants, by and through the majority of its members as identified herein, constitutes a clear abuse of discretion.

23. There is a reasonable likelihood that the Plaintiff will succeed on the merits of its claim for a Writ of Mandamus and Declaratory Relief and that the Plaintiff, as an elected Representative of the citizens of Moore County, and the citizens of Moore County will suffer immediate and irreparable harm if the currently constituted Board of Education is permitted to hire a permanent replacement for Dr. Grimesey pending Plaintiff's attempts to seek a recall of the current school board.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order prohibiting

the Defendant from hiring a permanent replacement for Dr. Grimesley pending further Order of this Court.

This the 5 day of June 2015.

VAN CAMP, MEACHAM & NEWMAN, PLLC
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

By: _____

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