

February 15, 2016

Board of Education of the Washington Local School District

RESPONSE TO CHARGES SET FORTH IN
BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION

As you know, Cheric Mourlam and I have been colleagues and friends for many years. We have publicly hugged each other a countless number of times. I am sorry for embarrassing her and did not perceive that she was trying to break away from my hug.

I received via e-mail a document titled Resolution pertaining the evening of February 12, 2016 at the Whitmer High School boys basketball game. I was sitting at the game with my wife, and as a fan, I made remarks to one of the officials. Being an official myself, I noticed the official making eye contact with me and sensed his displeasure with my remarks. Therefore, I left my seat and stood with Athletic Director Snook at the end of the gymnasium and continued to observe the basketball game with Mr. Snook.

I did not perceive any of the officials directing me to leave the gymnasium, but apparently Mr. Snook heard or perceived something and advised me to go upstairs. On my way toward the upstairs, I saw Brian Meyer and stopped to watch the game with him rather than going upstairs. Mr. Snook saw that I had not gone upstairs and was visibly upset and yelled at me to get out and go home. I did exchange words as I left, telling him that I have supported him and that I was upset and embarrassed that he had ordered me to leave the gym. Nonetheless, I left.

I have sent an e-mail to the official apologizing to him for my remarks.

I have shared your resolution with Brian Meyer, the director of security, and he has first-hand knowledge as to what happened and does not agree with all of the facts set forth in the resolution.

My presence at Friday night's basketball game was to support the basketball team and my son and I apologize for any attention that was drawn to me and for embarrassment to the Board, the district, and my family. As you know, social media has ran rampant with defamatory statements about me and I have taken down my Twitter account and Facebook page that had close to 6,000 followers. I am not seeking media attention. Quite to the contrary, although I was contacted by the media today, I informed the media that I would not speak to them. Nonetheless, it was reported by the Board's attorney to my attorney that I was contacting radio stations to plead with them to allow me to speak on the radio and that, in fact, one of the radio stations called the Board president to ask me to stop. After my attorney made further inquiry, he was informed that the facts relayed to him were not accurate and that I had, in fact, refused to speak to the news media. Quite frankly, I do not know how my refusal to speak with the news media gets translated to the false assertion that I have been pleading with the news media to put me on the radio and that someone from the radio station had to call the Board president to ask that I quit contacting them.

I trust that I have adequately responded to the Resolution as I have been asked to do.



Patrick Hickey