
NO HARM North State Journal Inquiry

cnagy@ncmcs.org Catherine Nagy

Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 2:44:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: MCSBoard@ncmcs.org MCS Board, mcsseniorstaff@ncmcs.org MCS Senior Staff

Board Members,

The following inquiry was received from North State Journal last Tuesday requesting a statement from MCS regarding an Oct. 7 video of an incident at Crain's Creek Middle:

"Our outlet has been contacted regarding an assault on a student by another student at Crains Creek middle school that took place on Oct. 7. The student who was attacked suffered injuries which have now been diagnosed to include a concussion. We are in possession of video of the attack, which appears unprovoked, and still images of the victim.

We were told by a parent of the victim of the Oct. 7 incident that she was not allowed to press charges with the Moore County Sheriff and that the school's SRO said it wasn't up to him to press charges either.

Can you please share the relevant policy barring parents from filing criminal complaints in an assault situation such as this?

Additionally, we were made aware of an Instagram account created by a student with almost a dozen fight videos from the same school. That account appears to have been removed, however, we downloaded the videos in anticipation that would occur.

We are seeking an official statement from the district on both the individual attack on Oct. 7 as well as the Instagram account fight videos. Any information about either item that you can share with us is appreciated.

Our publication is seeking a quick response due to deadline reasons. Kindly respond no later than Oct. 20 to have the district's statement included in our reporting."

The writer received a response from me on Wednesday that we would be providing a statement by her deadline of Oct. 20. The following statement was provided to her this morning:

"Throughout the country, social media accounts posting videos of fights and other instances at schools and on school buses exist. Schools within MCS are no exception. As to the specific Instagram account in question, some of those videos are more than a year old and some are more recent. I am not aware of the status of that account at this time, as it is not an official MCS social media account.

As to the statement by the parent of the victim of an October 7 incident and the ability of the MCS Police to file charges, it is not accurate. The incident is still under investigation and if MCS Police choose to file charges, it will be referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The safety of our students is our highest priority. We take any acts of bullying or violence in our schools very seriously and will take swift action to ensure that those who perpetuate violence are disciplined and charged according to the law."

However, the writer published her story a day earlier on Oct. 19 without a statement from MCS. She has since updated her story with the statement provided to her this morning. The story can be found online here: <https://nsjonline.com/article/2022/10/fights-in-moore-county-middle-school-caught-on-video/>

Please refer any immediate question to me.

Thanks.

--

Catherine Nagy, MBA
Director for Communications
Moore County Schools
910-947-2976 office
910-986-5277 mobile
cmurphy@ncmcs.org



david.hensley@ncmcs.org David Hensley - MCS Board Friday, October 21, 2022 at 8:29:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: tlocklair@ncmcs.org Tim Locklair
Cc: pam.thompson@ncmcs.org Pam Board, Robert.Levy@ncmcs.org
Bcc: david.hensley@ncmcs.org

It seems that other media, such as The Pilot, routinely run stories on MCS happenings which quote MCS personnel or require other PAO coordination, yet I don't recall receiving notices for each of those.

Do we receive notices for all other media inquiries, formal or informal, from all other media to include publications such as The Pilot and its associated publications?

If not, why not?

Also, I do not appreciate MCS, through Ms Nagy calling the parent a liar. Calling the parent of a child assault a liar is how one gets sued.

If the parent correctly related what the SRO told her, it is an accurate statement. Also, what the SRO said was true. He is not the one who decides.

Unless MCS can prove the parent to be lying, I believe Ms Nagy and MCS owes the parent, the NSJ and the SRO an apology for questioning their integrity. Or, to the contrary, Ms Nagy can explain to the BOE exactly what she meant by that terse statement.

That brings up another issue. Ms Nagy's response is not appropriate in either approach or tone. It is almost like Ms Nagy is adversarial to the victim and family. How about starting with "Our hearts sympathy are with the student, the young substitute teacher, and their families for the horrible incident which occurred at CC in xxxx".

David

On Oct 20, 2022, at 2:45 PM, Catherine Nagy <cnagy@ncmcs.org> wrote:

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tlocklair@ncmcs.org Tim Locklair

To: david.hensley@ncmcs.org David Hensley - MCS Board

Cc: pam.thompson@ncmcs.org Pam Board, Robert.Levy@ncmcs.org

Friday, October 21, 2022 at 5:27:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Mr. Hensley,

Good evening.

Thank you for your feedback and follow up. As best possible, I have asked Mrs. Nagy to notify the Board when we get a media request for information along with sharing with the Board what information we have released. This is also the case when we have specific media coverage on an event or issue, like the NCDOT condemnation at West End Elementary.

I appreciate your feedback on the release itself and your concern that the parent may perceive this as calling her a liar. The intention was to provide concise factually correct information back to the North State Journal. However, there are always ways for us to reflect on how we can continuously improve our messaging. It is always the expectation that the tone of the district's communications be professional and without any negative or terse tone. We will need to continue to be very mindful of this in the future.

Again, thank you for your feedback and follow up. Please let me know if you would like to discuss further. Happy to discuss. I hope you have a great evening and a great weekend.

Tim Locklair, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Moore County Schools
PO Box 1180
5277 Hwy 15-501
Carthage, NC 28327
Office: (910) 947-2976



On Fri, Oct 21, 2022 at 8:29 AM David Hensley - MCS Board <david.hensley@ncmcs.org> wrote:

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