

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Investigation requested

To the editor:

(Below is an abridged version of a letter to the Kiel Area School District Board of Education:)

How much did six massive bomb sweep mobilizations cost the KASD taxpayers?

Was any part of our nationally broadcast scandal avoidable?

Last weekend a shameless partisan hit piece article appeared online that nonetheless provided a tidbit of useful information about our infamous KASD sexual harassment investigations:

Stuart Long, a School Board member, said the board did not let the threats dictate the outcome, but he acknowledged that they expedited deliberations.

"Did we cave? Absolutely not, we did not cave..."

Prior to this, the publicly known facts were primarily from the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) as follows:

1. WILL and the families remained resolute in their position that the Title IX investigation was inappropriate and should be dismissed.

2. Three weeks after their initial letter, WILL sent a second letter to the district on June 2, 2022 stating in part "Dismiss the Title IX complaint and investigation, as required..."

3. Within hours of receiving WILL's second letter, "...the District relented and sent letters to the boys while announcing the investigation was 'closed.'"

Thanks to Mr. Long's revelation, the public finally has a complete picture of what happened.

I applaud the board for not allowing a child who feels victimized to withdraw a complaint of sexual harassment for any unjust reason, especially terrorism. Now we know the investigation was closed because it was acknowledged as inappropriate, just like WILL stated, from the very beginning.

So why were the inappropriate

investigations launched in the first place? Why weren't the complaints dismissed from the very beginning, per district policy? Or when parents of the four repeatedly objected? Or immediately after WILL's initial letter of May 12? If indeed inappropriate, why weren't they dismissed until three weeks after WILL's first letter? What happened to Kiel during those three weeks? Who is responsible for that mess?

How much did our highly paid legal counsel rake in during the three weeks after WILL's first letter? Why did our district legal counsel advise the district administrator to deny an open records request inquiring about a separate 2021 student investigation? Did that 2021 "mispronouncing and deadnaming" sexual harassment investigation result in disciplinary action? Who made all those decisions? Was a legal recommendation made to the administration at that time regarding future such complaints, or not? Is "mispronouncing" even in the dictionary?

Was the whole nationally broadcast expensive debacle avoidable, or not?

What about the impact on the lives of the four unjustly interrogated students? The 1,200-plus student body? The people of KASD? What all did this mess cost Kiel and our students?

Due to the serious nature of these and a multitude of other unaddressed and unanswered questions, and their implications for our students' emotional well-being and the community's reputation and finances, a thorough investigation into the entire matter is absolutely necessary. I hereby request that the KASD BOE launch a third party investigation into these serious matters.

Matt Piper
Kiel