

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TCC group wants answers

To the editor:

As a member of Tri-County Citizens (TCC), I am thrilled that people are willing to discuss open records requests in the KASD!

This is an example of one that has not been answered. Regarding last summer's international exposure of the KASD sexual harassment investigations of eighth graders, Dr. Ebert please provide either your best rough estimates of the below costs or actual documentation for each, whichever you feel is most cost effective for the taxpayers:

- 1) City of Kiel bomb sweep costs (as provided to KASD)
- 2) Attorney costs
- 3) KASD personnel overtime and related extra costs
- 4) Funding losses related to students and family members exiting KASD after being investigated for sexual harassment (How many of these investigated students and their siblings left KASD?)
- 5) Costs to parents due to bomb threat school closures (ie: 1,200 students x 10 days x \$10 day = \$120,000)
- 6) Other (anything else we should include Dr. Ebert?)
- 7) Adding the above together, what is the total estimated economic impact on KASD taxpayers of the summer 2022 sexual harassment investigation? We appreciate your "always willing to help" attitude Dr. Ebert!

In the absence of a third party investigation, the only way to get honest answers to important questions like these is via open records requests. TCC is stepping up.

At this point, the whole ugly situation last summer has successfully been swept under the rug. Many recognize how dangerous this is to students as well as our community,

and want to make sure corrections are made so nothing like it ever happens again. Many ask if the politics of "mispronouncing" contributed to the problem. Many want to know how and why the decision was made to elevate an unfortunate quarrel between young students to the level of a full-blown formal sexual harassment investigation. Further, many want to know why it didn't stop long before it did, or immediately when expensive lawyers got involved. We are all stuck paying the bill, how much is it please?

The Supreme Court has ruled, the purpose of open records requests is "...to ensure an informed citizenry, vital to the functioning of a democratic society, needed to check against corruption and to hold the governors accountable to the governed."

TCC wants politics out of the KASD buildings; we believe instead the KASD would best prioritize the academic education of our students. To that end, TCC will continue to listen to whistleblowers and others who feel wronged and unheard.

TCC will also continue to speak out for those who keep silent for fear of being bullied. We get it. Literally dozens of our fellow citizens told us they could not join the 837 petition signers because of reprisal concerns. In Kiel, USA, God help us!

The KASD routinely slow walks most responses to open records requests, and demands outrageous prices for some disclosures. Citizens just want some answers.

Will the community allow TCC to continue? Why would anyone want TCC to stop?!

Matt Piper
Kiel