

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Another view of school event

To the editor,  
Congratulations Kiel on the 3:1 referendum landslide.

Also, I'd like to thank all the people who reached out in late October when they heard the Kiel Area School District (KASD) called the police on four law abiding KASD citizens seeking the release of public records about the referendum before Election Day. My favorite note was "What is this, Moscow, Russia? Keep fighting the good fight!"

For those that want to better understand how KASD operates, I'll describe this eyewitness's recollection of what happened.

On Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 a citizen went to the KASD district office for a confirmed 8:30 a.m. appointment with Superintendent Brad Ebert to pick up public records about the proposed new Middle School. The records had originally been requested months ago in writing.

The citizen brought along three companions to help him read through the public documents, assuming Dr. Ebert had the good sense to offer on-site access to the information instead of wasting good money making hundreds of copies.

The preexisting work product binder was not produced. Instead, Dr. Ebert intentionally left only two pages of information at the front desk. He was coincidentally unavailable to explain his trickery.

When the front desk person couldn't remedy the situation, the victimized citizen politely informed her he was willing to wait to meet with Ebert.

Since the other three service-minded volunteers had already blocked out several hours in their busy day to help get to the bottom of so many unanswered questions about the \$67 million referendum for the good of their fellow KASD voters, all four citizens waited and chatted peacefully among themselves in the public waiting area.

After 20 uneventful minutes Brad's assistant operations manager suddenly appeared in the public waiting area.

The four witnesses observed that she was visibly distressed about something, and appeared to be very uncomfortable speaking. She engaged the calm, tricked citizen, but was unsuccessful in resolving his reasonable requests for a meeting with Ebert.

Ultimately her solution was to say "you need to leave now" and scurry away into Ebert's office. The four witnesses left immediately as this was the first and only time we were asked to leave. We said hello to the police officers approaching the building.

Imagine the surprise of the four friendly men a few days later when they learned that those police officers were called for them! Who at KASD overreacted? What were they thinking?

A version of events by someone who wasn't there and didn't bother to talk to the four witnesses was unveiled at the Oct. 30, 2024 annual district meeting, available on video at the "Kiel Broadcast Network" on YouTube. At that meeting acting School Board President Dan Meyer stated publicly to the assembled citizens the following:

"Four gentlemen entered our district office.... It was a very intimidating and harassing situation, and highly unacceptable."

Dan's implications are obvious, and completely unsubstantiated. An open records request was made to KASD for evidence of any kind related to Dan's public narrative. No substantiating documents exist.

Dan Meyer continues on the video of the public meeting to say the four men faced consequences and were punished, clearly implying they were guilty. The fact is the police never even questioned the four friendly men because nothing approaching inappropriate occurred. Dan and Brad both know this to be true.

Why should we care if KASD School Board President Dan Meyer makes easily documented dishonest and defamatory statements about innocent citizens to the public at large?

Remember when hurtful words by students on the Raider football practice field resulted in a \$142,500 settlement because the KASD administration failed to handle civil rights violations properly?

How much worse is it when the School Board president himself declares four respectable KASD citizens to be guilty of terrible crimes against young women at the district office, without evidence or due process, publicly at the district's annual meeting?

Is the possibly litigious situation made much worse when that same School Board president says he banishes those innocent citizens from entering school property for all eternity, because he says so?

Are the other six School Board members doing anything about this outrageous public conduct by the man they hold up as their president? Is their silence compliance?

Are the KASD taxpayers going to get stuck with the consequences of Dan Meyer's public conduct?

Matt Piper  
Kiel