

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #4

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To: Staff, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members of Columbia CUSD 4
From: Dr. Segobiano, Superintendent (Email: segobiano.gina@columbia4.org)
Date: March 29, 2019

Re: **Updated** School District Information Addressing Various Claims

On February 7, 2019, I provided school district information via email to all staff and parents of students attending Columbia CUSD #4. The purpose for creating the document was to provide factual information from the district office addressing the various claims being circulated in the community. Thank you if you took the time to read the information. Since February, additional claims have been reported to me, so I have updated the document to include additional items for your review.

Thank you for keeping informed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I have the opportunity to provide any additional information needed.

NEW ITEMS:

1. **Parkview Roof Replacement**

In 2013, the district's architect conducted a roof assessment for all facilities. The assessment was completed by a licensed engineer who specialized in roofing. The engineer's recommendations were utilized for planning and budgeting future roof projects. The roof identified most in need of replacement was the Parkview roof. In 2018, a second opinion was obtained by CTS, the company that completed the geothermal systems at Eagleview and Parkview. The CTS engineer confirmed the poor condition of the majority of the roof, specifically the EPDM roof and a portion of the Modified Bitumen roof. (The roof is comprised of two roofing systems.) CTS shared the roofing analysis with the board and attended the February 21st board meeting to answer any questions. The recommendation was to replace the roof in its entirety so Parkview would have a unified roofing system with a 30 year roof and warranty. The board approved project at the March 21st meeting.

2. **Monroe Independent Editorial**

Columbia School District was the focus of two editorial cartoons. The cartoon included various topics that also involve claims that were covered in the February 7th document.

No Bid Contracts - See Cooperative Purchasing and Track Respray Information (#8)

Concession Stand – See Use of Lease Levy Information (#10)

10 Year HLS Survey - See 10 Year HLS Survey Information (#11)

Executive Session Violation - See Open Meetings Act (#14)

3. ROE Release of Information

The Regional Superintendent received a FOIA request in July of 2018 that asked for any correspondence or documents the ROE received in relation to Columbia School District and any complaints received. In October, the ROE Superintendent provided the school district documents to the district's attorney, School Board President, the Monroe Independent, the Republic Times, and other unknown individuals. At the January board meeting, the Superintendent provided the school board an overview of the information that was publicly shared that included sensitive documents covering a range of items from 2015 to present. After reviewing the lengthy documents, the following observations were conveyed to the Board and public at the January board meeting: 95% of the document represented information provided by three individuals, 4 parents sent the ROE emails expressing a concern, and correspondence/documents prepared by the superintendent for the board of education were shared with the ROE.

4. Student Enrollment under Joint Parenting Agreements.

For parents who share custody over their child(ren) through a Joint Parenting Agreement, the court order that is most recently signed by a judge provides guidance to school officials on student enrollment. For divorced parents, school officials obtain the necessary information on educational decision making and follow the most recent court order as it pertains to education.

5. Unaccompanied Youth/McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal mandate that requires school districts to immediately enroll any student who is homeless or an unaccompanied youth per the guidelines of the Act. Failure to follow the McKinney-Vento Act is a violation of federal law. In addition, the ROE's Homeless Liaison provides guidance to school officials in the event a determination of homeless status is questioned in order to ensure the correct designation.

6. IHSA Rules and Regulations

The Illinois High School Association follows very strict by-laws, particularly for eligibility to participate on sporting teams at the high school. IHSA follows a formal appeal process for parents and/or school districts for any dispute that may evolve. The appeal process is followed, and IHSA makes the final decision on the matter at hand. The school district has always maintained good relationship with IHSA.

7. Monroe Sheriff's Department Investigation

In 2016, the administration cooperated with the Monroe County Sheriff's department by answering questions regarding an investigation they were conducting involving student information provided to school officials. The Superintendent and/or other administrators were not under investigation, but cooperated with the deputies to answer questions. After reviewing the police report that was shared with the administration a year later, the report contained information that was not an accurate account of the interviews.