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Calvert County Board of Education

1305 Dares Beach Road

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Dear CCPS BoE Members:

Daniel D. Curry is still the Superintendent. Why? With all you have known, including this latest announcement where *another* known child molester was protected and transferred in CCPS, Curry should have been gone years ago. If the Board who hired him ensured a reasonable background check had been done on Curry he never should have been hired. We say *should*, instead of *would*, because too many of you have demonstrated that your standards and consciences are limited, if they exist at all. If you had cared, his contract never *should* have been renewed, and since our situation alone came to your attention, he *should* have been terminated. Why does Travis Mister still have a job? Why do the educators who were willing to try to drive Sarah to a breakdown or suicide and hurt our sons still have jobs? Daniel D. Curry is a “person” who employs abuse and threats to hide his, your and others’ abuses, yet, you keep him around. Nearly every other local and state politician from our area wants to see the system fixed, but they are powerless to do anything about Daniel D. Curry. The responsibility, by law, resides with you. State laws need to change, so CCPS and any other system in Maryland can never again be solely at the mercy of Board members like the majority of you.

The last Board meeting was as appalling as so many before it. Bill Phalen, who, only recently, along with last-Board President Dawn Balinski, has made glowing comments about Daniel D. Curry, is the new Board President. Dawn Balinski lied regularly and with ease in her role, and continued to invite lawsuits by virtue of her lies and steadfast commitment to covering up the truth and pretending it doesn’t exist. She has routinely behaved as if the truth about the pain and difficulty people experience all the time in CCPS is an affront to *her,* and as Bill Phalen took his new role, he made reference to that, as if she has suffered. Several meetings ago I reminded you of a disgusting example of how Bill Phalen views things. Last winter the Board had a discussion about racism in CCPS. Bill Phalen asked “if these kids are bringing racist talk from home, who are we to tell them it’s wrong?” Mrs. Claggett and Cousins argued, neither Tracy McGuire, Dawn Balinski nor Daniel D. Curry did anything, and Bill Phalen doubled down. For anyone who has experienced racist discrimination in CCPS, what should that tell them about how the Board feels about racism? We do not mean to imply that their views are at all reflective of the majority caring educators in the system, but people from among the majority are not at all representative of most of you. I pointed out such statements and lack of action invite liability. They do. CCPS does not need walking invitations to lawsuits as Board Presidents, Superintendents or anything else. From the emails we did receive, along with John’s and his colleagues’ analyses, Bill Phalen never sent any emails. We must question whether he corresponds via email or even reads email. Will Bill Phalen be as sycophantic and easily led as Dawn Balinksi before him? From what we have heard and seen we expect it.

Very recently we learned of a family in CCPS who has been going though absolute hell for fifteen months because of what you allow and do. We did not know this family and heard some family was essentially levying baseless accusations of racism. That is not what is going on. Having learned about their situation, we *believe* Dawn Mazyck about what she and her children have been through, and you guys should move as quickly as possible to ensure her kids are safe and none of them endure any more abuse. Some of the things her kids have been through:

* Retaliation any time they complain or ask for help, including leading up to meetings at the Central Office, and afterward. Terrorizing her son to the point of a breakdown/decompensation has happened several times. The same thing happened to Sarah, right before we were supposed to meet with administrators from the Central Office. She came home sobbing and then I received a call from a *blocked* number, which I announced was being recorded.
* Her son has a disability, which is exploited to amplify his breakdowns.
* Her children receive consequences when complaints are made, instead of the children physically assaulting/bullying/harassing them, both on the bus and at school. How many people, including our own kids, can relate? When her son started to stand up for himself, because he has not been protected, he has been the one to get in trouble.
* Her son has received sexually inappropriate (to put it mildly) comments from an educator.
* He has been tormented for his race and religion and called a “wigger.”
* Daniel D. Curry “offered” to transfer her son to Southern Middle School, where our eldest son and daughter attended, and which Ms. Mazyck knows is a threat. Numerous educators there were part of a lengthy campaign of abuse against Sarah, which they knew could drive her to a breakdown or suicide, and it has been used as a dumping ground for some of the worst educators in the system, aside from good ones because of retaliation or to keep them down. Daniel D. Curry quite readily “offered” to transfer Sarah to Calvert Middle after her setup and abuse, but routinely denies transfers to kids who are the victims of crushing bullying and intimidation *he has not ordered,* but which is rife throughout the system. We don’t even want to think about what might have happened to Sarah at Calvert Middle, but do have some questions about a recent educator transfer *out* of there, which was not referenced in the Personnel Reports attached to your meeting agendas. Since Sarah’s abusers at Southern were protected, why should anyone think Ms. Mazyck’s son would be safe there? Curry has abusers throughout the system.
* CCPS came to their home on several occasions. There was a Transit Connect van parked in front of Jennifer Hudson’s home, driven by a white man in glasses. We have heard from many other parents they have had similar experiences after asking for help and making complaints, and a CCPS van parked in front of our home. You already knew this was a problem, yet allow the Mazyck family to go through it, too. Why should they feel safe?
* Recent Board President Dawn Balinski has routinely referred Ms. Macyzk to Daniel D. Curry, *knowing* what a monster he is and what he has already done to her and her family, as well as so many others. Then, Daniel D. Curry plays games and deflects to other people, who have not been able to do anything or even harmed them.
* They have been subject to the same sort of vicious, rumormongering smear campaign as our family, and described as abusive, mentally ill, insane, crazy, liars, race baiters, etc.
* They have received strange packages in the mail, unlike any they have received before.

For what their family has been through alone, three of you should resign in shame. It is your steadfast commitment to protecting Daniel D. Curry and pretending the truth doesn’t exist which has led to the Mazyck family’s difficulty and pain.

We received a package on May 9, 2018. We photographed and kept the items, and contacted customer support. Our order was for bird seed and a discus carrying bag, which Amazon confirmed; instead, there were two books, one of which had to do with “polyamory,” “swinging,” etc.. We received this package a day after we had emailed copies of Amazon receipts for two textbooks to you, Daniel D. Curry, Executive Director Anthony Navarro, Assistant Superintendent Diane Workman, and a teacher helping Sarah turn in her NJHS application; also, abusive former Principal Mandy Blackmon and abusive then-Vice Principal Travis Mister. We accidentally emailed Blackmon and Mister when we didn’t initially notice Daniel D. Curry was copying them into the email thread and we replied. After Sarah’s final setup and the call from a blocked number we informed all of you we would have no contact with them, but Curry tried to force it anyway. You already had an email copy of the complaint for over two weeks, *should* have cared, and after what Daniel D. Curry had done and allowed, you saw he was trying to punt us back to Sarah’s abusers. You knew, and went right along, all the way through the Travis Mister coverup! Oddly, we never received any of the ten return receipts for the complaint we mailed to CCPS, either. Tracking numbers showed they were signed for on April 16, 2018. What is going on with the local mail? We have never, ever, had a package mix-up like that before, and then the day after we email you receipts for books? Why has Dawn Mazyck received intimidating and/or strange packages, too, including from Social Services?

Although racism routinely goes unaddressed in CCPS, because educators are not allowed to properly address so many different forms of abuse, apparently there is an educator problem with “implicit bias.” How dare anyone put the problem of racism back on the majority of educators when they are not allowed to ensure proper discipline and consequence enforcement for not only racism, but a slew of other abuses, so many of which Dawn Mazyck’s children have endured? Plenty of educators, like anyone else in society, may have implicit biases; however, there are far worse and more pressing issues in CCPS to address than that. For example, in our son Michael’s freshman year Band class at Calvert High, one of his classmates was called the N-word repeatedly throughout the year, sometimes multiple times a day. The boy calling him this was developmentally disabled, and permitted to run roughshod over the class, damaging instruments, screaming, locking himself in closets, etc. When the boy who endured this without respite occasionally lost his composure and prepared to fight (he never did) *he* was the one to get in trouble. Interestingly, the one hurling the racist insults would stop when he believed retaliation might be imminent, showing he could control himself, but felt entitled to spew hate as long as he thought he could get away with it. Everyone in the class heard this, and nothing was ever done. Before it is possible to address “implicit bias,” there must be proper implementation of the law, Code of Conduct and adherence to the Student Behavior Response guidelines, not to mention basic decency and respect. But Daniel D. Curry doesn’t want this, because it detracts from the atmosphere of chaos and abuse which facilitates his predilections. There are surely some racist educators in CCPS, but *not* the majority of them. What does CCPS do to address abusive educators? The answer is a resounding nothing; in fact, the majority of you and Daniel D. Curry actively protect them. We have already told you he uses the term “equity” as nothing more than a tagline to distract and facilitate his malicious goals - stop playing into it until blatant racism is no longer tolerated, let alone sometimes encouraged, anywhere in CCPS.

The young boy in Sarah’s Spanish class at Southern Middle, who was actually being encouraged to further misbehave so he would be a better target for Travis Mister’s abuse, hurled racist and pejorative comments and insults regularly, but nothing was ever done. How is it possible to analyze data to try to identify and address any biases when there is *egregious* underreporting to start? Until you have data which is actually reflective of what is going on in CCPS, there is no point. Daniel D. Curry wrote us that young man’s unaddressed misbehavior was attributable to federal, state and local policy protections. In that same classroom there was a bright and capable young man with Autism, who surely was subject to those same protections. He worked hard and interacted well with his peers and *decent* teachers. While long-term substitute Mrs. Cramer worked with him on how he might protect himself when things grew too chaotic and frightening, vicious long-term sub Ashley Adams would even mock him, while complimenting the other boy on his misbehavior. Sometimes, the Autistic boy would curl up on the floor in a corner or under his desk, in fetal position, and would get in trouble for wearing his noise-cancelling headphones. Both boys were Caucasian. Stop trying to create “implicit bias” distractions when major issues of racism and so many other abuses (including pedophilia) are not allowed to be addressed and stop blaming the majority of educators for what you and Daniel D. Curry refuse to allow them to address. Any implicit bias training can wait, and overt discrimination is a much more dangerous and glaring problem. Educators are too busy dealing with Learning Focused and other inane garbage to add anything else to their plates anyway, and now CCPS is trying to strip the CEA of the little power they do have, including eliminating *race, gender and other discrimination protections* from their contract. You do realize discrimination protections exist to help ensure the “equity” you love to talk about?

Similarly, CCPS wants to alter the CEA contract to make educators’ workload even heavier, while limiting the CEA’s access to employees, freezing wages and reducing opportunities for career advancement. At the last Board meeting there was concern over hiring and retention and interest in why there is a disproportionately high number of male administrators in CCPS. Again, how do you think Daniel D. Curry became a principal at the age of twenty-four (after teaching for three years), and a superintendent at thirty-one? Does anyone believe he was the smartest, most capable, caring and qualified educator available for the job? Or, is it because he was the only man in the room? We bet much of his career advancement is attributable to misogyny, and many kids and educators along the way lost out because Daniel D. Curry was promoted instead of women. There must be plenty of women who are skilled, qualified and prepared to pursue administrative roles in CCPS, but in a system where a “Boy’s Club” mentality rules, they will continue to be sidelined and subjugated. The best way to fix this problem? Start telling the truth, focus on the largest problems first and get rid of this loser Superintendent. Get a new one from inside CCPS’ ranks, who is educator respected and supported and knows how to work as well and quickly as possible to turn around the system. Are you aware pedophiles tend to be misogynists? The majority of you have actively created and supported this culture and you continue to do everything possible to drive away the caring, responsible educators in CCPS.

If it were not for the majority of you supporting such an abusive culture, Jennifer Hudson would still be teaching. Instead, she has permanent brain damage after being assaulted by a student, forced back to work against doctors’ orders, and even tortured up at the Central Office. She has constant, painful throbbing on the left side of her head, PTSD, and spatial perception, barometric pressure, light sensitivity and hearing issues. Although her benefits and pay were discontinued in the spring of 2019, she had no actual break in employment until she was finally granted disability retirement (after nearly being terminated for “incompetence”) and therefore is supposed to receive insurance benefits as any other retiree would. Why should she have to go to court to pursue them, after all she and her family have been through? She received everything she possibly could at her Worker’s Comp hearing, and CCPS was ordered to pay her legal fees. Is it possible for you to do the right thing so she does not need to go to court again to receive the benefits to which she is entitled and deserves, and save CCPS (and taxpayers) the expense?

One thing we have been alleging and insinuating for so long – CCPS protects and supports pedophiles – has been in the news lately. First, Charles County transferred George Taylor from one school to the next, and then he came to CCPS, to the Country School, which some of the most disabled and behaviorally challenged kids in CCPS attend. After an inappropriate relationship was made known there, he wasdemoted, to a Behavioral Development elementary school, Barstow Elementary. Southern Middle had both the Alternative Education program and a BDP program. After you, the Board, learned about Travis Mister, has was transferred to the other BDP middle school in the County, Plum Point. Why does CCPS knowingly place pedophiles at schools where there are more kids with serious behavioral issues, who are also usually the least likely to be heard? Mr. Taylor was supposedly removed from the Country School in January 2019 and then either immediately transferred to Barstow, or maybe not until March of 2019. Which is it, or was it some other time? Why the discrepancy in times? What about the building services worker at Northern High, with a criminal record and about whom complaints had long been made, assaulting a student at Northern High? Why didn’t CCPS give up surveillance and any other records eagerly, without a subpoena being required? Why was a subpoena necessary for Mr. Taylor’s records? Conversely, former Northern High NJROTC Chief Brandon Hartwell stood up to harassment of his cadets and faced backlash, including false accusations of accessing a student database. There was never a full investigation, and Chief Hartwell was not questioned, although some of his former cadets were. There was a campaign of gossip and letters were sent to parents, although he was not directly named in them, because CCPS is careful and underhanded that way. CCPS did everything they could to take away the respect and support he *earned*, and tried to undermine everything he did for the cadets and program. CCPS could begin disrupting this pattern of protecting abusive educators, and help people grow and build, by seeing if he is available for the Huntingtown High NJROTC program.

We were disturbed to hear Student Member of the Board Ms. Setzfand speak of locked bathrooms at Huntingtown High, but it’s a good thing she’s bringing it to people’s attention. She also seems to have a much better head on her shoulders than most of you. A book was recently recommended to us - ‘Why Meadow Died,’ by Andrew Pollack and Max Eden. It spells out so many of the problems that led to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) shooting on February 14, 2018 in Broward County, Florida. Although one of the largest districts in the country, there are many similarities between how BCS was/is run and CCPS. A known sexual harasser/predator was employed at MSD, even though he had been investigated over numerous complaints and the allegations confirmed. Educators were subject to an atmosphere of intimidation and retaliation so severe many were afraid to speak about what they thought may have led to the shooting and circumstances inside the district. They could be terminated without cause, simply for standing up and telling the truth. Dishonest and malicious gossip campaigns followed people who told the truth. The Superintendent – whose abuse, lies and mismanagement were well documented – had a dishonest, symbiotic relationship with the majority of the Board, and they didn’t seem to have much common sense nor grasp of the truth and how their decisions impacted people, but there was a lot of talk about “equity,” and they frequently pointed to underreporting as proof of their successes in “closing the gap.” He and they spent a lot of time politicking and touting artificial, deflated and inflated statistics, yet didn’t seem to care about day-to-day operations (including security-oriented policy adherence/change and budgeted/overdue building safety modifications) or how people were being hurt throughout the system. Consequences for misbehavior and crimes were discouraged and limited, almost to the point of nonexistence, with crimes being routinely dismissed and ignored. The bathrooms at Marjory Stoneman Douglas were locked on the third floor, which maximized bloodshed when students had no place to hide. The risk of a shooting increases and you have *known* Daniel D. Curry has invited a shooting through various means to CCPS. If CCPS would implement reasonable disciplinary standards, including not looking the other way when kids misbehave and/or crimes are committed, vaping, drug use, etc. wouldn’t be as much of a problem, and there would be no need to lock the bathrooms. The book describes how law enforcement and education policy experts advocate for real-time video feed access for law enforcement to be able to see what is going on in the schools, which many districts around the country already do, but not in Broward County. Why not in Calvert County?

We cannot find any references to “sole-source” procurement in agendas or minutes for years going back, until this last meeting. There is no reason to trust any recommendations Daniel D. Curry may control or influence for *“sole-source”* (a.k.a. no-bid) procurement, such as the contracts you just awarded. There were two, for elementary-level education consulting services. Mr. Howard even stated there were “no other competitors using this model.” These companies each have their own, proprietary, models. Mr. Howard was indirectly saying these companies were hand-picked because there is a lot to hide about how bad things are in CCPS. If you haven’t already, you should check out the website for Curriculum Management Systems of Johnston, Iowa. The little bit of information they do provide focuses on how teachers and principals can improve what *they* are doing and “calibrate… with state standards and tested objectives.” Dr. Fenwick English of CMS may very well be a caring and skilled educator and consultant, but consider a few things: he is in his early 80s, became a vice principal after three years of teaching, after one more year became a principal and not long afterward left the schools for higher administration, academia and consulting. When was his last real, practical public-school-setting experience? Dr. Ross Greene’s Lives in the Balance program is going to be piloted in four of CCPS’ twelve elementary schools. Do they happen to be the four Behavioral Development Program elementary schools? Lives in the Balance utilizes their very own “Punitive Index” as a rubric to measure district success, which discourages law enforcement referrals, out-of-school suspensions, etc.. No one wants to be called “punitive” and it is often considered a shameful designation. One of their program goals is to *avoid* the modification of “kids' behavior through application of rewards and punishments,” or *consequences*. They instead advocate a three-step plan, which involves gathering information from the child, then the educator/parent, and then the two working together. Do any of you have a problem with this?! CCPS does not need any more encouragement or motivation to further limit reasonable student consequences, blame the majority of educators for problems in CCPS (like bullying and ostracizing them for being “punitive,)” force them through more training, justify reporting deficiencies and deflect responsibility. So, these no-bids Daniel D. Curry engineered and which you approved are to defend and validate what you and he have done and hide the truth about how the system is actually functioning and what and who is to blame, at a cost of **$94,700**. Curry referenced his “evaluation” from this past summer, which was improperly advertised the same day and right after the Certificate for Discovery for our PIA suit was delivered, despite repeated warnings from us to reschedule and properly advertise that meeting. Why is Daniel Curry setting the standards for how his own performance might be couched, defended or evaluated? Might he point to the audits as a measure of his success in CCPS, and/or use them as a resume builder if he pursues other “opportunities” afterward? With all you have known you had enough to get rid of him years ago, without wasting more time and hiding behind pretense. Why give him any leverage on his way out the door, after what he is and has done? Can you rescind the approval of these contracts?

At least the Budget meeting on January 23rd will be livestreamed and filmed and has been moved back to the Central Office from Calvert High. Audit reports through 2016 have been removed from the CCPS website, to which [www.calvertedudocs.com](http://www.calvertedudocs.com) was linked. Also, older CCPS Adopted Operating Budgets were removed, so we will correct it by posting screencaps of 2016 through the present on our site. It *really* doesn’t look like you’re all that proud of your transparency, and Daniel D. Curry continues to play petty and stupid games. We will be meeting to review missing emails at the Central Office in late February. Since we know how the eFinancePlus software functions, may we go ahead and show you how to run the reports we requested at the same time? We requested them on May 10, 2018, Daniel D. Curry said they do not exist and our concerns irrelevant, but we paid over $3,000 for the records, are suing for them, and it might make things simpler before the next pretrial conference. It should require no more than several minutes to request *and* run them. We have heard of other citizens filing records requests, plan on more ourselves and hope CCPS responds to them fairly and reasonably, unlike our experience so far. We just sent Ms. Maxey our first new request, for the sole-source procurement RFPs mentioned in the meeting and all audit reports back to 2013. There is no reason CCPS should have its own policy for how the Superintendent manages the records process, as it is governed by State law, and CCPS has a registered Records Custodian who has not been allowed to do her job by you and Daniel D. Curry. Please do everything you can to ensure Ms. Maxey is allowed to do her job, without any pressure. How can you look CCPS employees in the eye, knowing what Daniel D. Curry does to them? No one from the Central Office has conveyed anything to us through any means, but it’s not hard to tell what they go through.

The deadline to file to run for Board elections is coming up soon. The day after our first pretrial conference for violations of the Public Information Act, where we rejected CCPS’ offer to provide the emails - but no financial records - Tracy McGuire was manic, left early, and recent Board President Dawn Balinski announced for her that she would not be running again because of “term limits,” which Ms. McGuire later confirmed. There are no term limits. One complicit member down, although not soon enough, and two to go. We hope Dawn Balinski does not run again, even if she would be unopposed. We firmly believe the Commission would do a better job if they were to appoint a new member for her seat than if she were to be elected again. If she were to run unopposed, and as corruption and malfeasance continue to be uncovered, we don’t think she’d make it through another term. We will do our best to help any candidate who cares who wishes to run against her. We wonder if either McGuire or Balinski will be able or willing to hold their seats through even next December, and they already should have resigned in shame so the Commission could have appointed better representatives in their stead. Bill Phalen should resign, too, but he’s only one year into his current term and we don’t know if a special election would be required.

On December 23rd we received our first cease and desist letter. Did you have any idea Curry had retained an attorney in CCPS’ name to threaten us, until *we* informed you? Does it bother you that you weren’t copied on the letter? Why do you tolerate his continued insubordination? Daniel D. Curry is stupid, petty and malicious and hoped it would ruin our holidays. Instead we found it laughable, although it caused us to worry even more about what intimidation tactics we might face down the road. Again, since we’re still only in the middle of our first suit for violations of the Public Information Act, PLEASE SUE US, so the truth - including about pedophilia pertaining to circumstances surrounding our family’s situation - comes out sooner.

Sincerely,

 

John Blevins Katharine Blevins

Cc: Mr. Cary Hansel, Hansel Law

 Mr. Nicholas Ferrante, Ferrante, Dill and Hisle

 Mr. Kelly McConkey, President, Calvert County Commission, and not complicit former

 BoE member

 Mr. Thomas Hutchins, Calvert County Commissioner

 Mr. Earl Hance, Calvert County Commissioner

 Mr. Mike Hart, Calvert County Commissioner

 Mr. Steve Weems, Calvert County Commissioner

 Mr. Mike Evans, Calvert County Sheriff

 Ms. Inez Claggett, not complicit BoE member

 Ms. Pamela Cousins, not complicit BoE member

 Ms. Dawn Balinski, complicit BoE member

 Ms. Tracy McGuire, complicit BoE member

 Mr. William Phalen, complicit BoE member

 Ms. Abigail Setzfand, Student Member of the Board

 Dr. Susan Johnson, Director of Secondary School Improvement

 Ms. Kim Roof, Director of Student Services

 Ms. Karen Maxey, Assistant to the Board

 Ms. Diane Workman, Assistant Superintendent

 Mr. Anthony Navarro, Executive Director of Administration

 Soon-to-be former, ***predatory and sadistic*** Superintendent Daniel D. Curry