John and Katharine Blevins

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May 8, 2018

Calvert County Board of Education Executive Staff and School Board Members

1305 Dares Beach Road

Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Dear Calvert County BoE Executive Staff and School Board Members:

As I said earlier, “Mrs. Blackmon, Mr. Mister and Mrs. Adams will be remaining in their positions at SMS.”    Our staff is continuing to examine and investigate all the issues you have raised.  I can tell you that, so far, there is nothing discovered that would justify removing any of them from their positions.   The investigation is not complete and I don’t anticipate it will be for a week or so.

In the meantime your daughter is absent and unexcused from school.  Given the ultimatum you have given us, you may be looking at closing out the year this way and I do not believe that is in Sarah’s best interest.   I encourage you to bring her back to school and allow her to finish the year.  If you want her to skip Spanish class or you want to request an alternative means to finish her Spanish class, you may discuss that with the Mrs. Blackmon.

I would also consider approving a transfer to another of our middle schools for the balance of the year.

This has been a campaign of manipulation, negligence, intimidation, dishonesty and abuse that far exceeds what Ashley Adams alone has done, and which indicates that long-standing grudges have festered and been held against Sarah and her representatives. That Spanish teacher Ashley Adams’ character has been so susceptible to influence that she has been willing to progressively mistreat her students, for months, and especially Sarah, is beyond the pale. We know she has been used, and responsibility for this mess will not be foisted onto an unqualified teacher when she is trying to start her career. We have heard she has been subbing/helping in other classes at Southern lately, and are unsure why or if this is unusual compared to her past activities at the school.

Dr. Curry, how you have allowed things to operate has not been in Sarah’s, or her teachers’ and classmates’ best interest, and we have already stated that we are done dealing with the liars and abusers at Southern. Mandy Blackmon and Travis Mister are both, because of what they have allowed and done.

After Sarah transferred PE classes, and it was then suggested she transfer Spanish classes, simply to neglect the real problems you and they have permitted, we will not send her to start over at a new school for the remainder of the year. If you cared about Sarah’s best interests you would not suggest we subject her to more upheaval than she has already endured. You also would not place the burden on other teachers and administrators in the County.

Our interests are first and foremost in accountability, transparency, and knowing the problems endemic to Southern and throughout the County are fixed.

Sincerely,

John Blevins Katharine Blevins

Cc: Dr. Susan Johnson, Director of Secondary School Improvement

Ms. Kim Roof, Director of Student Services