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Calvert County Commissioners

175 Main Street

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Dear Calvert County Commissioners:

It has been over three years since malicious “educators” at Southern Middle School began a campaign to ostracize our daughter to a breakdown or suicide, simply because we asked questions about egregious chaos and abuse at the school (particularly in her Spanish class) and encouraged her to document what she experienced. It has been a little less than three years since our daughter was set up and terrorized by those “educators,” after we sent a long-overdue and well-warranted complaint to Calvert County Public Schools Superintendent Daniel D. Curry, the Board of Education and CCPS executive staff. On May 1, 2018 we were compelled to remove our daughter from Southern, and our sons from their respective schools at the end of that year, because they were not safe to remain in the system. Although none of the administrators involved remained much longer at Southern, two are still in CCPS. Rachel Baker was promoted, and Travis Mister has been successively, laterally transferred around the system, after it was learned what he was doing to students, including prepubescent boys. Many of the malicious “educators” who tried to drive Sarah to a breakdown or suicide are still in the system, including vile former substitute Spanish teacher Ashley Adams, who terrorized Sarah and called me from a blocked phone number around an hour after. Even though it was known what a risk Ashley Adams poses, she was hired to a full-time position at Dowell Elementary. On 12/16/19 we asked “if she bullied and set up middle schoolers like Sarah, what do people think she might do to elementary schoolers who are even more powerless to protect themselves?” CCPS continues to invite liability all the time, and in *so* many more ways and instances than that. As CCPS and the County are both in the budget development stage, how do you feel about funding a school system led by a Superintendent who clearly has no respect for the money you allot?

We await a response (not yet due) for a recently submitted PIA request for emails pertaining to OPEB liability and insurance, and just received for free the product from another request, for all instructional materials provided to CCPS by Maine-based nonprofit educational consultancy Lives in the Balance (LIB), for thirty hours, at $600 per hour. Some companies/people will exploit the selfless suggestion implied by the term “nonprofit” - and the tax benefits of its designation - to appear to be something entirely other than what they are, and should *not* be nonprofits. Dr. Ross Green’s Lives in the Balance is a good example. Similarly, just because a company claims to have a proprietary model doesn’t mean it’s any good. It is, however, a good way to ensure the ability to rig bids with corrupt or naïve institutions, and it is clear why Daniel D. Curry steered a sole-source bid their way. The total product of Lives in the Balance’s instructional materials was 6 pages of worksheets (enclosed), which talk down to teachers and seem purposely designed to try drive them crazy, while disallowing them – to the point of prohibition - from handling things directly and head-on, similar to Daniel D. Curry’s North Carolina-based Learning Focused pet project. What do you think of the phrases “the kid,” “invitation” and “”drilling” for information” in the enclosed sheets? How much of the language sounds like it is intended to support and validate student (“kid”) irresponsibility and misbehavior? How much of it sounds like it is designed to distract them? Don’t LIB’s “drilling” strategies sound eerily similar to prying techniques a pedophile might use to understand how to best ingratiate themselves with - and abuse - children they are targeting? Don’t those strategies read like inculcation to the point of brainwashing? Lives in the Balance’s “Collaborative and Proactive Solutions” are not “how problems get solved;” but, they are a good way to disempower and strip educators of their rightful independent and collective professional autonomy, while facilitating chaos and abuse in the system. They presume decent educators (the majority) don’t care or have even basic common sense. The techniques serve to sidetrack, instead of encouraging a focus on fundamentals, what really matters and *actual* professional development. The “Problem Solving Plan” flow chart dictates five mandated steps before a “problem” is either “solved,” or not. The teacher must detail, and date, said, five steps, until the problem is “solved,” (either “yes” or “no”) with details and date. Interestingly, there is hardly any space for an educator to write the actual details, because the details aren’t what really matter; rather, the goal is chaos and the distraction of steps themselves. If an educator follows the “Drilling Cheat Sheet” mandates, they must break “the problem down into its component parts,” which essentially opens a rabbit hole of endless individual “problems,” as well as excuses for a lack of accountability and misbehavior on the student’s (a.k.a. “the kid’s”) part. Every problem a student might have can and should be addressed in exactly five steps? What if there are two steps, or ten? Why does the adult in the classroom seem to be the only one with little to no choice, and the only one subject to crushing procedural requirements, but not permitted to encourage and enforce structure in and for their students? Isn’t that their job? How are they supposed to be allowed to perform their actual jobs? *Dr.* Ross Greene’s “approach” leaves kids to wonder where they shouldn’t, deprives them of the ability to think critically, and leaves them spinning in a world where they do not have the maturity or other resources to create the structure they need. It deprives them of safety. It is a *dangerous* “approach” and thought process. Doesn’t it seem counterintuitive for Ross Greene to effectively try to turn educators into beleaguered, fearful, rigid, worksheet-filling automatons, if his supposed goal is for them to then encourage academic commitment and achievement, confidence, overall growth and healthy risk-taking for their students? How would educators have time to do anything other than fill out sheets? What if they don’t comply with the “plan?” What if they address things deliberately, fairly and honestly? If they do might it potentially result in a ding (or worse), dictated by LIB’s very own “Punitive Index” scoring chart? What if they don’t properly comply with Greene’s rigidly-proscribed “Empathy Step” (#3 of 5 in the Problem Solving Plan worksheet)? If so, could such a teacher be arbitrarily and unfairly punished, based only on the subjective standards of a single, hand-picked sole-source vendor, procured by a sadistic pedophile superintendent?

Did Daniel D. Curry employ Ross Greene’s services to facilitate and justify his sadistic, pedophilic goals? How did he find him? *Was* it tied to Curry’s earlier 6/24/19 evaluation? *Did* he use CCPS funds and Greene’s services to couch, defend and/or evaluate his own performance? Greene’s website says he was on the faculty at Harvard Medical School for over twenty years and “lectures and consults widely throughout the world,” but how much time did he ever spend being a true educator? How much time did he ever spend in the classroom? How are his far-flung, ivory tower standards even fair – let alone achievable - for teachers? Life isn’t fair, but education, among other things, is supposed to be an equalizer. One of the fundamental tenets of education is *fairness.* Ross Greene’s “approach” is anything but fair. What do you think of his strategy? What value did CCPS receive from the $18,000 spent, which was half of the initial amount approved by the Board? That is equivalent to 3 days and 6 hours of work, or $4,800 per day. We received an estimate for ~$8.32 per page for the PO, invoice and payment for Lives in the Balance, which was part of a larger request we made on 02/08/21. We refuse to pay such outrageous charges and therefore have not received those records. If Lives in the Balance’s “services” are so obviously lacking, what must Fenwick English’s of Curriculum Management Systems in Johnston, IA have been? The Board voted to approve his sole-source bid at the same time, yet no money was spent. Of course, that may be because we sent a letter asking the Board to rescind approval of both the LIB *and* CMS bids. It’s good the CMS bid didn’t happen, but neither should have any portion of the LIB bid.

The LIB program was supposed to be piloted in four of CCPS’ twelve elementary schools. On 1/22/20 we asked if they happened to be CCPS’ four Behavioral Development Program elementary schools. One of those is Patuxent Appeal Elementary, where Daniel D. Curry’s wife, Jacqueline Wisnauskas, teaches 1st grade. She has Asperger’s Syndrome, which is usually highly conducive to rigidity and programming, and was his At-Risk Youth Director in Lake Forest, DE, when he was married to his first wife. All three of them left Delaware at the same time. Former Calvert High Principal Steve Lucas is now the superintendent of Lake Forest, DE. Steve Lucas was the principal at Calvert High when we had to remove our eldest son from the system. Anthony Barone was the vice-principal at the Career and Technology Academy at Calvert High when my son took a drafting/engineering class there. Barone was *promoted* to principal at Patuxent Appeal Elementary, at the same sham meeting as former SMS Dean Rachel Baker, who was *promoted* to assistant principal at Huntingtown High. There were three other promotions as well – Loren Grimes from 11 month assistant principal to 12 month at Huntingtown High; Rebecca Hoffman from Calvert High English teacher and Student Services Team Lead to 12 month assistant principal; and, Scott McComb from assistant principal at Huntingtown High to CCPS Supervisor of Social Studies. All promotions were to conceal and reward at least two of the five people’s abuse and/or their preparedness to harm our kids – Baker’s and Barone’s. None were mentioned in personnel reports attached to Board meeting agendas. The Board unanimously approved the promotions. Curry set it up that way in the event he was terminated at his improperly advertised evaluation right afterward. It was unnecessary to vote to confirm the promotions, and a pathetic attempt at justification for that illegal closed-door meeting, which was first announced the same day and right after the Certificate of Discovery for Phase 1 of our PIA suit was delivered. A completely unnecessary Kirwan grant signing also served as cover. We asked Curry and the Board to reschedule and properly advertise the meeting, but they didn’t. Daniel D. Curry uses the money you give him to indulge and reward dangerous, malicious educators. Daniel D. Curry exploits the funds you give him, to actively rig bids and facilitate his and others’ pedophilic abuse, across county and state lines.

As the budgets are being developed, do you have a way to ascertain CCPS spends money as they say? I have noticed some items in both CCPS and the County’s budgets which may be of interest. Here are some from the proposed Calvert County budget:

1. The Debt Service category remains virtually unchanged from FY20-FY22.
2. There is a ~$20 million increase in Capital Projects from FY21-FY22.
3. Pension and Insurance Fund – FY20 - ~$36.4 million; FY21 - ~$30.7 million; FY22 - ~$35 million.
4. Proceeds from Bond Sales – FY20 - $0; FY21 ~$15 million; FY22 - $35 million
5. Operating Transfers In (Out) – BoE – FY20 - ~$131 million; FY21 - ~$146 million; FY22 - ~$165 million.
6. There is a massive decrease in Restricted Fund revenues – FY20 - ~$18 million; FY21 - $4,292,821; FY22 - $4,292,821.
7. The substantial increase in income tax revenue is happy news and potentially indication of upward trajectory for future revenues.
8. Public Safety Spending has consistently increased – FY20 - ~$39 million; FY21 - ~$43million; FY22 - ~$47 million, an 8.92 increase from FY21 to FY22.
9. There has been an 18.76% increase in Pensions and Insurance Spending from FY21 to FY22. FY20 - ~$25 million; FY21 - ~$23 million; FY22 - ~$28 million.
10. Due exclusively to Public Safety and Insurance increases, there has been a 5.25% increase in County government expenditures.
11. CCPS BoE operating expenses are flat, but OPEB-Schools expenses are vastly reduced, again. FY20 - ~$9 million; FY21 - $3,944,000; FY22 - $3,944,000. That’s a 56% reduction for FY21 and FY22, from FY20. That’s a big drop.
12. BoE Transfer Sheriff Deputies – FY20 - ~$290k; FY21 - $285k; FY22 - $236k. That is a 17.15% decrease from FY21 to FY22. We don’t know, but hope that doesn’t mean there will be fewer CCSO resources available to assist and protect people in CCPS. Law enforcement has already been limited – by and through a variety of means – from being allowed into the schools when crimes have occurred.
13. There has been no “BoE Transfer – OPEB” for the last two years. FY20 - ~$361k; FY21 - $0; FY22 - $0. Don’t know what that means, but hope it is not indication of reduction of CCSO resources available to assist and protect people in CCPS. Law enforcement has already been limited – by and through a variety of means – from being allowed into the schools when crimes have occurred.
14. Pension Contributions are up 14%.
15. Health Insurance Contributions are up 25.46%
16. “An OPEB contribution of $7.3 million, the full Actuarial Determined Contribution (ADL) has been provided for…”
17. ~$11.4 million was transferred to the Capital Projects Fund.
18. General Fund Forecast Expenditures have increased – FY21 - ~$27 million; FY22 - ~$30,000,000. That is a 12.22% increase for Insurance, Pensions, Other.
19. OPEB expenditures for the County and CCPS are both projected to remain static:
    1. Schools – FY21 - $3,944,000; FY22 - $3,944,000
    2. County Government – FY21 - $3,373,317; FY22 - $3,373,317
20. “Yes” – The County is projected to “preserve the County’s excellent financial position by maintaining a strong bond rating.”
21. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Summary for Education Expenditures – FY22 - $38 million; FY23 - $13 million; FY24 - $2 million; FY25 - $9 million; FY26 - $15 million; FY27 - $31 million.
22. The Capital Project Fund includes $4,007,675 for Southern Middle School HVAC in prior funding and $2,793,125 in FY22 funding. That had better be some excellent comfort, air quality and ventilation. Total is $6,800,8000.
23. Is it true demolition and construction for the new Beach Elementary will cost so much less than the ~$50 million renovation for Northern Middle?
24. The Capital Project fund shows Plum Point Middle has been budgeted $3,075,000 for FY22 HVAC installation/repairs, $1,120,000 for FY23, and $600,000 for FY25.

Some of the preceding make it seem like Insurance and Retirement costs are being reapportioned. When we learned CCSO personnel retired with pensions, but no healthcare, it was a surprise. We hope they will always be guaranteed group healthcare upon retirement, and it should have already long been standard.

Here are a few things from the CCPS proposed budget, which was not available until the day *after* Daniel D. Curry’s FY22 Budget Presentation:

1. “…the financial statements of the Board are included in the County’s financial statements.” What sort of statements are those?
2. Consultants FY2018 - $93,221; FY19 - $38,902; FY20 - $250,818; FY21 - $193,150; FY22 - $149, 126. Maybe CCPS could better use that money by not hiring consultants like Lives in the Balance and Learning Focused. More than anything, CCPS’ Consultants budget seems like a slush fund for Daniel D. Curry to facilitate chaos and abuse in the system, and satisfy his pedophilic goals and sadistic tendencies. He actually spends this money knowing it will invite liability, but he’s never cared about that.
3. The records we do possess show CCPS paid Kennedy Krieger about/at least 50% of their Non-Public Transfers budget, from FY15-FY20. Doesn’t that seem inordinately high? We were estimated outrageous amounts for the POs, invoices and payments we requested and do not have more information than that to provide, but it almost seems like business is being steered their way. Do you wonder about that? How many OCL and other tuition expenditures has CCPS potentially made where it may not have been needed?
4. There has never been made mention of Prescription Healthcare insurance under the Fixed Charges section, because it is already provided through Group Health Insurance. So, how did CCPS spend ~$12 million per year on duplicate Express Scripts prescription coverage? Where did they get the money? That’s about 25% of CCPS’ budget for *all* other insurance and health costs over that period of time. We might be able to tell you more, but some of the payments to Express Scripts were from Fund 7, and we don’t have those ledgers, because Daniel D. Curry keeps lying about their existence. They should have been provided in Phase 1 of our PIA suit, and more since.

At the 2/08/18 Board meeting a prescription coverage contract was awarded to Express Scripts / Keenan and Associates, which was in *addition* to prescription coverage already provided to CCPS Staff and their families through BCBS. No one has ever explained to us, even though we have continued to inquire, why that happened and why CCPS has spent so much money on it, including for premium shortfalls. Many payments to Express Scripts came from *Fund 7.* How could CCPS have paid premium shortfalls to Express Scripts for redundant prescription coverage for around 5,000 people, when plenty of members of staff still used their BCBS prescription coverage like always and had no idea why they even had Express Scripts cards in their wallets? How could there have been shortfalls, on prescription coverage for which CCPS was already paying nearly a million a month? Why did CCPS go through a third-party provider (Keenan Associates), paying them ~$14,000 per month, to buy this extra, unneeded prescription coverage, for around/at least $185 per person? CCPS seems to use a lot of middlemen.

We requested POs, invoices and payments for Express Scripts and other insurance coverage on 9/02/20. We have received many, but not all, we requested, and Daniel D. Curry ridiculously claimed records we requested on 10/07/20 for member rolls/lists for Keenan and Associates/CCPS’ Pharmacy Purchasing Coalition plan were exempt from disclosure. Since mid-October, we have sent letters regarding prescription coverage. Then, in November of 2020, CCPS issued an Invitation to Bid for *only* prescription drug insurance benefits. The bid approval discussion at the recent 2/11/21 meeting made it sound like everything had been aboveboard, and CCPS had only found more cost-effective prescription coverage for staff. Procurement Director Kevin Michael explained CCPS contracted with Express Scripts (for around three years) to provide “specialty drugs,” and “carved out” prescription coverage from other BCBS insurance coverage. Neither is remotely true. Why would Express Scripts – an exclusively mail-away prescription service - be able to provide “specialty” medications BCBS could not? Why did he say CCPS will “make arrangements” for “specialty” medications through BCBS, which makes it sound like they couldn’t before? At the 2/11/21 Board meeting it was even made to sound like BCBS is a *new* provider for prescriptions, even though they have been all along. So, it sounds like Keenan and Associates and Express Scripts are finally a thing of the past. Mr. Michael also said CCPS Staff and their families will still be able to get their prescriptions from pharmacies and “mail-in orders” with their BCBS prescription coverage. Exactly. CCPS never needed to provide another, mail-away option, because BCBS and other pharmacies already provided it, just like we said. We have strong suspicions about mail interference we have experienced since mid-April of 2018, and are sure one or more powerful persons around here have influence over the mail. Could the same person/s who ensured our mail was sometimes stolen/withheld, cut open, or even swapped with other items in an attempt at intimidation also impact mail delivery in other ways?

At about 7:40am on Saturday, 3/13 a black GM SUV driven by a man in a hat came past the front of our house, and then travelled back past the front of our home a minute or two later. At about 5:20 am on Sunday, 3/14 a dark GM SUV drove past the front of our home and then came back, same as on the 13th. The driver stopped the vehicle in front of our front walk, and I could see it in between two of our cars parked on the street. I saw a small flash of light from the driver’s side of the vehicle, then I believe the driver saw me sitting at our dining room table, facing our front windows, and the SUV sped away. On Monday morning what appeared to be the same car came by quickly, did not stop, and did not come back past the front of our home. We don’t know what that means, or if it’s some freaky coincidence; nonetheless, things like that cause us to worry for our safety.

We are aware of many problems with CCPS’ finances; however, there is still plenty we don’t know. To the extent we can demonstrate what we know we would be eager to meet with you and show you, in light of the budgets currently being developed. Even though it seems like steps are finally being taken to rectify some of the problems in CCPS, we very much care about learning the whole system has been turned around. Daniel D. Curry has to go. Given what prior “national” searches have produced, we would very much like to see the next CCPS Superintendent come from inside CCPS’ ranks. That means it’s probably going to be a woman (Calvert County can handle it), but whomever it ends up being should be well-respected by teachers, already understand CCPS’ inner workings and nuances and be able to hit the ground running. They should already have a firm understanding of how CCPS operates, and have spent some serious time as a true educator, having built their careers mostly, if not entirely, in the system. We hope the next Superintendent is what CCPS and Calvert County have long deserved, and that they are provided the latitude, respect and resources to force the changes CCPS so desperately needs.

[www.calvertedudocs.com](http://www.calvertedudocs.com) has been updated.

Sincerely,

John Blevins Katharine Blevins

Cc: Mr. Cary Hansel, Hansel Law

enclosures