
From: Doris HopeJackson
To: Sheri Washington
CC: hwimberlyjr@comcast.net, Anglesia Brown, wilde@provide.net, Cls3156@aol.com, dastewar@umich.edu, David Houle, Joi Jenson, Rachel Plumley
Date: Tuesday - September 1, 2009 7:45 PM
Subject: Re: Ms. Washington

Correction:

I stated that I didn't think it was a good idea for us to meet again on this day. I was available at 3:30PM; and did not leave for the day until after 6 PM.

You are the only one who behaved unprofessionally and there was no insubordination. Whereas, you were out of control and shouting, I spoke almost in a whisper. It is now apparent to me that you are trying to be as abusive as possible to have cause to claim that I am insubordinate; thereby establishing grounds for dismissal for cause. This too is harassment.

I stated what happen and you have once again, waged a verbal assault against me.

Duly noted.

>>> Sheri Washington 09/01/09 3:08 PM >>>

Dr. Jackson, I detest your persistent misquotes and blatant lies regarding comments that I have made. Your divisive deeds stop today. It is even more deplorable that you mentioned other people's names (first names) placing them in a conversation erroneously. Your assertion of harassment at my hand has no merit, no basis. Furthermore, it is unfortunate that you state that you meet with me, the president of the school board, out of courtesy, rather than duty.

Your further accusations are unfounded. You did indeed use my name, in response to Mrs. Miller, in a derogatory and disrespectful manner, and you did so as though I were not sitting in the room. As for you telling me that you will not attend a scheduled meeting with me is clearly of an insubordinate tone. I assure you, Dr. Jackson, this matter will be handled with the utmost fairness and objectivity, something that your behavior is void of.

The agenda items that I was going to meet with you about at 3:00pm (and not 3:30pm) can most certainly be handled on our regularly schedule board meeting day. It is such a shame that you could not conclude the meeting with professionalism. For us to be successful and prosperous, we must choose not to be antagonistic, but rather optimistic,

accountable and innovative.

Have an awesome afternoon, as I look forward to meeting with you again.

Sheri Washington, President
Willow Run Community Schools Board of Education

>>> Doris HopeJackson 09/01/09 1:42 PM >>>
Board Members:

Today, a meeting with the WREA that I thought had been scheduled to resolve issues (Missing Money and Summer Academy), was attended by Ms. Washington. She arrived at approximately 10:30 AM for the 10 AM meeting. Initially, as you are aware, Mrs. Miller requested such a meeting and I communicated very clearly that Ms. Washington's presence at such a meeting would be inappropriate.

At any rate, it became apparent to me that the meeting was for the purpose of covering other issues that Mrs. Miller wanted to push forward; rehasing FY 08 and FY 09. Mrs. Pollok, the MEA Uniserv Director claimed she had forgotten to share the other issues of concern with me. Throughout the meeting, Mrs. Miller asked questions, which she would then answer. Needless to say, I felt blind-sided. Especially, since Ms. Washington was in attendance. Which is precisely what I stated toward the close of the meeting. The issues that were shared with me as the reason for the meeting were touched upon lightly.

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. Miller asked that I address two additional questions, not knowing what else was being presented, I stated that I would rather forego any additional questions and adjourn the meeting, especially since, as previously stated, I felt blind-sided in regards to the meeting and that WREA had apparently decided to include Ms. Washington in the meeting.

Ms. Washington became irate. Yelling at me as though she were my parent. This was observed by everyone present at the meeting. She stated that up to that point, she was fine with the way the meeting had been handled, but that I had made an assumption about her. When asked if she thought the manner in which she was addressing me was appropriate, she stated, "This is the tone that you're going to get anytime I feel disrespected." No one had disrespected her. her behavior was out of control and unwarranted. It was Ms. Washington who was blatantly disrespectful. I stated that it was inappropriate to reprimand me in the presence of the WREA members. She responded, "I'll see you at 3:30." I responded that I didn't think we should meet again today. She walked over to where I was sitting, standing to the right of me, slammed her open hand on the table, repeating, "This is what you'll get everytime I feel that you are disrespecting me."

Again, no one had disrespected her. She exited the room; and turned back to the parties in the room saying, "I'll see you at 3:30PM and if you're not there...well... that's on you."

There is no Board policy that requires a standing meeting between the Board President and the Superintendent. This was a courtesy that I extended in order for us to develop protocol for working together.

Our first meeting was decent even though I was told that "the Board" didn't want me here (harassment). During the second session, I asked, and she named the Board members on whose behalf she was speaking and she stated that she could speak on behalf of the majority; citing "Mark, Joi and Anglesia as well as herself." She also claimed to be "keeping the old heads off of you (me.)"

In both prior sessions, I have been told that the district can't move forward with me as Superintendent. My contract is valid through June 30, 2013 and there are laws against employee harassment.

I am sending this email, only to document what took place. Mrs. Morgan heard Ms. Washington's yelling through the wall.
I have also asked Dr. Houle to document the events as well.

I was calm throughout the ordeal, but have strong reservations about meeting with anyone who is friendly on Saturday and out of control on Tuesday to this magnitude.

It is critical to note that Ms. Washington was an observer and did not participate in the meeting other than the outburst at the end.