

June 16, 2010

Anthony Adams  
Vice President  
Detroit Board of Education  
7322 Second Avenue  
Suite 485  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

*Via Hand Delivery to the Board Secretary*

Re: Inappropriate Behavior by Board President Mathis

Dear Vice President Adams:

This serves to memorialize and inform you and the other members of the Detroit Board of Education of those certain events that took place during my weekly meeting with Board President Mathis. The meeting began at approximately 4:55 p.m. The specific purpose of the meeting was to discuss the process by which the Superintendent's employment agreement will be extended and other matters to be presented at the Special Board Meeting scheduled for June 18, 2010.

During the discussion, President Mathis began to stroke his genital area with his right hand. This is a usual habit of President Mathis during any private meeting with me before he became President of the Board of Education and after. Most times I try to ignore him and proceed with the meeting agenda. On many occasions, I have asked him not to touch himself; other times I have interrupted the meeting by going to the ladies room or leaving his office or conference room to make a telephone call.

On this day, President Mathis continued to fondle his genital area for approximately 20 minutes, or the entire time I was talking. At one point, I lifted some papers from my binder above my eyes to separate my peripheral view in order to avoid watching his activity. He then unzipped his pants and pulled a handkerchief from his left pocket, put the handkerchief in his right hand and put his right hand with the handkerchief in the zipper area of his pants appearing to wipe himself. He then re-zipped and unzipped his pants again; again placing the hand with the handkerchief inside the zipper area; this time moving his hand as if to be masturbating in front of me.

I closed my binder, informed the Board President that I found his behavior offensive and disrespectful. I stated further, "I'm going to leave right now, because I am disgusted, and that I am sick of him doing that." I told him that there was no reason for us to continue the meeting with that behavior. He began to apologize by saying, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry, don't go." As I exited his office I informed him that I would be providing a written report to the all of the members of the Detroit Board of Education regarding this matter and that his actions have exposed the district to a lawsuit. It was approximately 5:55 p.m.

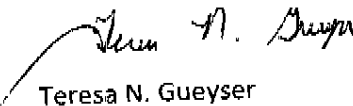
Upon exiting the Board office, I immediately informed the EPU Officer, Officer Nathaniel Coleman, who was accompanying me. Mr. Coleman indicated that we should inform President Mathis that he (Officer Coleman) is required to submit an incident report. We returned to the Board

President's office and knocked on the door. There was no answer. I then informed the Board Secretary, Ms. Joyce Zarrieff, of the incident. Officer Coleman and I then left the Board Office.

At approximately 6:07 p.m., President Mathis called my cell phone and left a message apologizing. In the message he also indicated that he wanted me to submit the names of the Charter Schools that have requested a contract extension for the Special Board Meeting scheduled for June 18, 2010. I did not answer the phone.

This incident represents the culmination of a long history of personally documented inappropriate behavior by the Board President. In the past, I notified former Board President Carla Scott, both of the EPU officers assigned to Superintendent's detail, my Administrative Assistant and the Labor Relations Executive Director of the Board President's inappropriate behavior and I have instructed him to have no physical contact with me, including handshaking. You will note that I only acknowledge his presence with a slight "fist bump" from a distance. While all of the incidences have been harmful and egregious, this one was blatantly outrageous. As the General Superintendent, I understand that the relationship with the Board President is absolutely essential to the advancement of the Board's academic agenda. However, this situation is now untenable and intolerable.

Sincerely,

  
Teresa N. Gueyser  
General Superintendent

cc. Members of the Detroit Board of Education