

From: KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 10/9/2021 4:35:03 PM
To: Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: DISTRICT 4 SCHOOL BOARD DEBACLE

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, October 9, 2021 4:18:52 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jack Johnson <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Karen Haynes <[REDACTED]>; Nicole Lewis <[REDACTED]>; tomgalan101@bellsouth.net <[REDACTED]>; Commissioner Barb Sturgeon <[REDACTED]>; Cory McCormick <[REDACTED]>; rossglyons@gmail.com <[REDACTED]>; Joyce Pareigis <[REDACTED]>; Paddy Gerbic <[REDACTED]>; momanderson@me.com <[REDACTED]>; suestacyng@gmail.com <[REDACTED]>; Donald Stacy <[REDACTED]>; Dan McCormick <[REDACTED]>; David Bilger <[REDACTED]>; pjjohnson76@aol.com <[REDACTED]>; Laurel Aiello <[REDACTED]>; Sean Aiello <sean.aiello@williamsoncounty-tn.gov>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Sandra Johnson <[REDACTED]>; Mary Ellen Redford <[REDACTED]>; Mark Oxborough <[REDACTED]>; Vicki Hamlin <[REDACTED]>; Mary Grindstaff <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: DISTRICT 4 SCHOOL BOARD DEBACLE

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Robin, I am heartbroken for you at being so let down. How awful! I really thought better of Jack Johnson, too, who has been kind to me in other areas.

Forwarding this, and contacting all six people on behalf of our terribly let down children before Monday..

Meg Risser
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Sat, Oct 9, 2021 at 3:56 PM, Moms for Liberty - Williamson County TN <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[REDACTED]

I've let you down. THERE IS STILL SOMETHING YOU CAN DO.

In case you're just catching up, TN Stands has an excellent summary of the situation here.

I have let you down with this District 4 school board nomination. The bottom line is that I trusted. Chalk that up to my being a political outsider and there is perhaps a certain level of naivete that goes along with that. District 4 boasts two of the three (out of 24 total) conservative county commissioners in Williamson County: Chad Story and Gregg Lawrence. Both gentlemen, especially Gregg Lawrence, have been incredible supporters of our mission to this point. There is not another pair of commissioners that I would have trusted in this way. And thus, I told you all to trust.

I have been talking with Gregg from the beginning when Fiscus announced his departure. Gregg, speaking on behalf of himself and Chad, repeatedly assured me that they were exercising due diligence in the vetting of their list of candidates, which was secret at the time, and that I (MFL) would be "very happy with their selection." The only person I knew that had applied for the position was Edina Kishonthy, and I expressed my wholehearted support for her, but deferred to their judgment. Multiple conversations went like this, and... I trusted what I was being told.

When the list of candidates was revealed on Monday, I called Gregg once again and weighed in on the list. I *trusted* that he and Chad were best positioned to make the selection since they were the ones who had been vetting these candidates for weeks by that point. I communicated the candidates that we for sure did NOT want, as well as ones that we found acceptable, and I believed they were best positioned to choose on behalf of District 4. Again, I was told, "Robin, I think you'll be very happy with our decision." Yep, you guessed it, I trusted.

So when I got a phone call on Thursday afternoon that they were nominating Josh Brown, a candidate with clearly compromised connections and allegiances, I was in as much shock as all of you. I knew immediately that I had let you all down. I replied, "Trust is earned. Once broken, it is not easily regained. You have broken my trust, and the trust of a large percentage of your constituents. You are not likely to regain it." I was given all kinds of reasons why they chose Josh Brown. Here they are, with my responses to each in parentheses (and yes, these are the responses I gave over the phone):

1. **He's a great talker and smooth operator.**

(Well, duh, he's a lobbyist)

2. **I've known him since he was 15 years old.**

(Well, that's not a qualifier for selection of a potentially better candidate whom you do not know as well. That is called vetting. After 200 hours of alderman vetting by Williamson Families, we know something about that).

3. **He's been around a long time.**

(What's the harm in bringing some fresh blood onto the school board vs an establishment player?)

4. **He's got kids in WCS.**

(So a parent who has withdrawn their child over the reckless decisions of the school board is therefore unqualified to sit on the school board and help right the ship?) NOTE: Let's not forget about the illustrious Nancy Garrett, District 12, who parrots that her not having kids in WCS actually makes her MORE effective. Please.

5. **The other commissioners will vote to confirm him because his wife helped half of them get elected.**

(This is the definition of cronyism. Nevermind that 87% of our county commission are liberals that we must now do the hard work of replacing. And who do we thank for that? Enough said.)

6. **He received phone calls from Sen Jack Johnson, Rep Glen Casada, and Sheriff Dusty Rhoades to pressure for Josh Brown's nomination.**

(How do those people outweigh your constituents? Does Jack Johnson really matter more than Chara Dixon, who spoke courageously about her son being traumatized by Wit & Wisdom? And who, I wonder, put all those people up to making those calls? Why do they care about a school board seat? What is the connection? Who worked on their campaigns? Who is the largest recipient of Pfizer money in the state? This, Moms and Mad Dads, is the Williamson County establishment.)

What can be done now? There is something, but you must do it now: before the Monday county commission meeting. Email Chad, Gregg, and the commission to delay the school board vote until November. Express understanding that perhaps this decision was rushed and made under pressure. Give them some grace because we all have lapses in judgment, and we all make mistakes (I hold myself as Exhibit A). Let's allow the candidates a voice. Let's allow the constituents their voices.

Encourage the vote be delayed until November:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Also, TN Stands has made it even easier with a petition (though I still encourage you to email):

[Click here to sign the Petition!](#)

And if you District 4'ers are feelin' froggy, you can email these fine folks and ask them why they felt the need (or perhaps the incentive) to promote Josh Brown over you, the people:

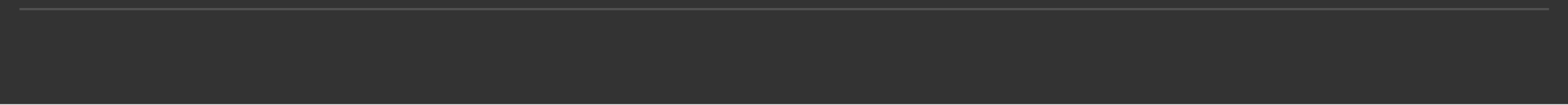
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Again, I'm sorry I let you all down this week. I felt betrayed by the D4 commissioners, and that I had, in turn, betrayed this group. It's a terrible, awful feeling. Perhaps they will listen to you now and grant a stay of execution on their decision. For my part, I will do my best to learn from this and not let you down in the future. It is no one's fault but mine. Mea culpa - please accept my apology.

As for the Williamson County establishment, we all knew there had to be one. We all suspected a swamp. Even I was knocked back on my heels this week as to how deep and swampy it really is. If you want to help drain it, go to Williamson-Families.org. Donate. Spread the word. Volunteer. Sign up for emails. Follow on Social Media. Overcoming the establishment will not be easy, and The Families cannot do it without you. **Yes, You.**

Very Sincerely,
Robin Steenman
Chair, Moms for Liberty Williamson County Chapter

Are you ready for something different, Williamson County?
Here's how we do it together.



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