

From: Chad Gray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 4/5/2021 10:06:53 AM
To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Your Inquiry

WARNING: THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS - Do NOT reply, click links, or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Nancy,

I have contacted this individual about this. FYI.

From: Chad Gray
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 8:52 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Bob Brown <[REDACTED]>; Beth Henry-Robertson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Your Inquiry

Good morning Ms. Lebert,

I am in receipt of your correspondence regarding one of the Democratic members of our Election Commission, Kim Henke. Members of the County Election Commission are appointed on the first Monday in April in odd years by the members of the State Election Commission who receive recommendations for the appointments from members of the TN General Assembly (Republican appointees) or from County Political parties (Democratic appointees). Mrs. Henke was first appointed in April of 2019.

I have copied the Chairman of our Election Commission and a member of the TN Division of Elections staff for review of this matter. The State Election Commission has the statutory authority over County Election Commission appointments.

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 3, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Lorie Lebert <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Chad Gray <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Williamson County School Board

Hi, Lorie: the Williamson County School Board has no jurisdiction over or operational relationship with the Williamson County Election Commission. I'm forwarding your email to Chad Gray, the Director of the Election Commission.

Nancy

Nancy Garrett
District 12, Williamson County School Board
[REDACTED]

From: Lorie Lebert <>

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:29 PM

To: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Williamson County School Board

WARNING: THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS - Do NOT reply, click links, or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Williamson County School Board Member:

This letter is to inform you of violations of the Code of Conduct for County Election CommissionMembers on the part of Williamson County Election Commission member Kim Henke.

Ms. Henke has failed to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of her office by violating the following sections of the Code of Conduct:

3. Demonstrate impartiality and fairness to all voters, political parties, candidates and their representatives and all members of the public.

4. Do not make disparaging or supportive comments or remarks about candidates or issues on the ballot...or participating in any way with direct mail, TV, radio, or other forms of communication in favor for or against any candidate or ballot referendum, identifying your position as a County Election Commission member....”

8. Conduct all duties in a professional manner.

As evidence of these violations, I submit the enclosed email exchange dated July 15, 2020, between Bob Brown, Chairman of the Williamson County Election Commission, and Ms. Henke. Said emails are subject to the open records law.

In response to an email by Ms. Henke, Mr. Brown informed her that “...partisan Political involvement and partisan comments such as these are contrary to the Conflict of Interest Policy of the State Election Commission for County Election Commissions. Additionally, they hinder the purpose of our Commission and our endeavor to provide fair and impartial election oversight. If you want to engage in partisan politics, it would be in your best interests to resign from the Williamson County Election Commission prior to involving yourself in these partisan political activities and making partisan political comments.”

In a subsequent email to Ms. Henke, also dated July 15, Mr. Brown further stated, “In your original email, you talked about a current county elected official and who their ‘friends’ might be and with who and what their political motivation might be. Pure speculation and inside political baseball on your part. Your political opinion was clearly evident in that email. I think that is inappropriate and not up to the impartial standards of a county election commissioner.

“All of that political activity is great and within your individual ‘rights’, but to be a County Election Commissioner, we give up some of our individual ‘rights’ so that all Williamson County residents can know we act and rule impartially and by the law.”

This is not an isolated instance but rather a pattern of behavior on the part of Ms. Henke. She has a long history of demonstrating hostility toward conservatives and making disparaging public comments about those with whom she disagrees. She is co-founder of an organization called Williamson Strong, which over a period of many years has personally and viciously attacked numerous people in our community for their religious and political views; made false accusations against them; and characterized them as haters, bigots, fear mongers, extremists, etc.

I have a substantial amount of information about Williamson Strong available upon request. However, in the interest of brevity, I’ve enclosed just a couple examples of Ms. Henke’s contempt and bias toward those with opposing views, as expressed in her own words:

- In a Sept. 18, 2016, email to then-WCS superintendent Mike Looney, Ms. Henke laments the new conservative school board members’ “politically-charged agenda items,” which she identifies as “Chairman selection, Common Core, curriculum, textbook selection, Christian values, Christmas, etc.” She goes on to state, “Some school districts in Colorado have had similar conservative ‘Board Majority’ takeovers, and it has not worked out well for the teachers.”

- This was followed by a Sept. 21 email in which Ms. Henke decries the election results, writing, “Six right-winged extremists won seats on 8/7...They joined two existing extremists.” (Notice how everyone with whom she disagrees is labeled as an “extremist.”) She then alleges the conservative board members ultimately want to privatize public schools without providing a shred of evidence, and attempts to associate the then-new school board members with the Koch Brothers, ending Social Security, Medicare and public schools.

Ms. Henke has violated her oath of office by failing to live up to the standards set forth in the Code of Conduct. Her words and actions disqualify her by demonstrating she lacks the ability to serve on the Williamson County Election Commission in a fair, impartial, respectful and professional manner.

Her pejorative language toward those with whom she disagrees sets a very divisive tone at a time when we should be seeking ways to unify our community and restore confidence in the integrity of our election process.

Accordingly, I respectfully request she not be re-appointed as a member of the Williamson County Election Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Lorie Lebert



Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God who loves us.

[This message is From an EXTERNAL SENDER]