Zinser, Leanne

From:

Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>

Sent:

Thursday, April 4, 2019 4:31 PM

To:

Westberry, Jory; Lucarelli, Stephanie; MITCHELL, JENNIFER; Carter, Erick; Terry, Roy

Subject:

Report

Attachments:

False report.pdf

Good afternoon! It has been six days since my first email was sent, and I have not received a response from any of you. I was very surprised that not one of you asked me to send the report on Valerie Parker. This just proves that you have no interest in truth or hearing our side. For your convenience I have attached the report to this email. Your minds will be blown! If anyone should be investigated, it is this school board. The corruption over the last 4+ years runs deep. Eventually it will catch up to you. The truth always prevails.

Regards, **Kelly Lichter**, President (239) 285-3599

Pursuant to School Board policy and Mason Classical Academy administrative procedures, this e-mail is the property of Mason Classical Academy and to be used for official business only. In addition, messages sent through this system are subject to the Public Records Law of the State of Florida and also to review by the school. There should be no expectation of privacy.

Confidential communications regarding for false report investigation

False Reporting Guidelines

Anyone reporting in good faith shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false report or counsels another to make a false report is guilty of a felony of the third degree punishable by up to five years in prison. In addition, the department may impose a fine not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation. Each time that a false report is made constitutes a separate violation. A false report is a report of child abuse, neglect or abandonment or adult abuse, neglect or exploitation that is made to the central abuse hotline which is not true and is maliciously made for the purpose of:

Harassing, embarrassing, or harming another person;

Personal financial gain for the reporting person;

Acquiring custody of a child or vulnerable adult; or

Personal benefit for the reporting person in any other private dispute involving a child or vulnerable adult

Section 39.205, Florida Statutes (F.S.) states what the department has to do concerning false reporting for children and Section 415.111, F.S. addresses with false reporting for adults.

On November 8, 2015 at 1:30pm, a call came in to from Mrs. Parker.
The report stated, "the had an accident while was in the classroom, because the teacher would not allow to go when needed to go." This is FALSE. (Please see emails below).
The report went on to say that, "Because had the accident, the teacher became upset and to a say that, "Because had the accident, the teacher became upset and to say that could not return to the school." This is FALSE. (Please see emails below).
"The parents attempted to go into the school but were also reprimanded and the

"The parents attempted to go into the school, but were also reprimanded, and the mother was made to clean the restroom at school." This is FALSE. (Please see emails below).

"The teachers are on a schedule and are unable to deviate, and going to the bathroom was not on the schedule at the time." This is FALSE. (Please see emails below).

"On another unknown date, another child had an accident at the school, and because was afraid of the consequences, flushed underwear down the toilet. The staff at the school checked all of the little at the school in order to identify who did

not have any underwear, and the parents of the child was reprimanded." This is FALSE.

At the time this report was made, the facts surrounding this separate incident were discussed in an open forum with the parents and the Principal. All parent questions were answered and it cleared up any misconceptions and false statements about what happened. After the open forum, no parent brought forward any grievance to the MCA board. MCA has a policy on parental grievances. To date the school has not had a single parent grievance.

Didn't question why someone would contact two months after alleged incident then contact the media and go on camera and lie? should know that Mason Classical Academy is unable to publicly disclose the truth about this alleged incident because of federal privacy laws. Mrs. Parker intentionally and willfully gave inaccurate and false information and was maliciously made for the purpose of embarrassing and harming the school's reputation.

As a result of this false report, our school was also damaged financially. Some of our donors expressed serious concerns. A fundraiser scheduled at Talbots at Waterside Shops was cancelled as a result of Mrs. Parker's continued spread of knowingly false statements. Even after closed this case after no findings, Mrs. Parker has used social media as a way to continue lying and defaming the school. This is clear retaliation. Also, it appears that this has become personal, since the founder of MCA is mentioned in this post. This was posted last month on a public Facebook page, "Collier County School Board Watch:"

Valerie Bryant Parker Sadly, that was my child who was thrown out. My ear was unfairly from Mason Classical Academy and old denied any due process. In our case, the school failed to follow any proper protocol. To make matters worse, when we spoke out about this, the school's administration slandered us and disparaged our child with abusive and false claims and took to social media to suggest other parents do the same. Please think about that for a moment - this is a year old child they villainized and a family who just days prior were as valued as any other MCA family. This from a school which prides itself on virtue and from a sitting county school board member who should be serving as an advocate for school children and their families. That's totally unacceptable. It's reprehensible actually and I think any parent would feel the same way if they and their children had been the recipients of such egregious mishandling and bullying. Now this would have never occurred in a public school bc there is protocol and accountability, but if it had, you bet Mrs. Lichter would have been all over it as a fierce advocate for those parent's rights.

If charter schools are publicly funded they should absolutely be held to the same standards and code of conduct as traditional public schools, esp considering the founder of Mason Classical, Mrs. Lichter, doesn't hesitate to call out CCPS for any of their shortcomings. It's a gross double standard.

Like · Reply · 1 · 11 hrs · Edited



Here are the email communications:

Subject: Re: Absences Date: September 9, 2015 at 3:02:01 PM EDT To: Denise Barreto < dbarreto@masonacademy.com > Cc: Erica Huck < ehuck@masonacademy.com >, David Hull < dhull@masonacademy.com >
Please note faxed a letter for your records. This was done about an hour ago.
Sent from my iPhone
On Sep 9, 2015, at 12:52 PM, Denise Barreto < dbarreto@masonacademy.com > wrote:
I completely understand the situation, but I cannot excuse any absences without a
Please review our Student Handbook regarding the attendance policy. Sincerely, Mrs. Barreto
On Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 12:34 PM, Valerie Parker wrote: Dear Ms. Barreto,
wrote:
wrote: Dear Ms. Barreto,
wrote: Dear Ms. Barreto, Please note Unfortunately, nothing could assist and time, which explains the long absence. I indeed sent last time was out. Regrettably, awoke with similar issues yesterday. Therefore I kept home, as any parent would, and provided since we are now
Please note Unfortunately, nothing could assist and time, which explains the long absence. I indeed sent last time was out. Regrettably, awoke with similar issues yesterday. Therefore I kept home, as any parent would, and provided since we are now to do so by I am hopeful will be in school tomorrow. I take academics seriously and can assure you we are supplementing with reading Bob books and writing when feels up to it. I can also

On Sep 9, 2015, at 8:53 AM, Denise Barreto wrote:

Good Morning Ms. Parker,
I am emailing you because has accumulated a total of babsences in less than a
month. Collier County Public Schools require us to report 10 or more absence in a
30 day time frame which then becomes a truant issue.
We do understand that students get ill but we can not excuse an absence without a
and the state of t
If has been please submit paperwork to excuse the student. At MCA we believe that every day a student is out they can easily fall behind due to our vigorous curriculum. If you have any questions please fee free to call. Sincerely,
NW.
Denise Barreto
Registrar
Mason Classical Academy
3073 S. Horseshoe Drive
Unit 114
Naples, FL 34104
Office 239-227-2838
Fax 239-201-2056
From: Erica Huck <ehuck@masonacademy.com> Subject: Re: Accident Date: September 11, 2015 at 5:50:02 PM EDT To: Valerie Parker <</ehuck@masonacademy.com>
This is 3rd accident in a month of sch ool. This is becoming a real problem for many reasons.
need to independently handle their toilet needs. I have already told
my students they can always interrupt me or any teacher for bathroom emergencies, and even run there if they need to. should have known that already.
Also, my students have many opportunities to go to the bathroom throughout the
day. I often remind them to go when there are breaks.
Another concern is that stuck hand down pants and lifted it out dirty with
excrements.
Not only gross and something a teacher should rarely handle, but very
unsanitary for all of us. It was all over seat, desk top, classroom floor, door
handle, bathroomas well as all over
I am very concerned about lack of Independence with toilet needs.
Sincerely, Mrs. Huck
Remember the report stated: The report stated.

was in the classroom, <u>because the teacher would not allow</u> to go when <u>needed to go."</u> As you can see, this is not true.
On Sep 11, 2015 3:55 PM, "Valerie Parker" wrote: Dear Mrs. Huck,
I wanted to follow up regarding 's accident this afternoon. How awful that was for you, I'm sure. I feel terrible it happened. has been in the bathroom twice since we've been home which leads me to believe may of some sort.
When I picked up, the lady waiting with advised that made a couple comments to the effect that wanted to be home and it was more fun therethinking maybe could have had a greater purpose. However, when I dug, said that did feel that way but said was asked and so answered that being home is more fun than school and talked about what likes to play with-etc. told me only wanted to get clean and was sad couldn't play with the special play dough you planned for the children to play with today. At any rate, I think it was a genuine accident. said realized had to go when you were teaching but didn't want to interrupt and thought it was best to wait until you were done, and then had the accident. I explained that if that ever happens again, its perfectly okay to raise your hand and, in an emergency situation like that, its also okay to interrupt and let the teacher know you have to go to the bathroom straight away. understands that now. I just think it was the onset and thought had control when really didn't.
I am making a donation to the school as a gesture of my appreciation in handling that very unpleasant situation and to help cover the cleaning supplies. was a mess and I can only imagine what you all had to deal with. Awful, awful, awful.
Thank you kindly,
Valerie Parker
The report stated, " had an accident while was in the classroom, because the teacher would not allow to go when needed to go." FALSE!!!!
From: Valerie Parker [mailto: Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 2:10 PM To: Erica Huck <ehuck@masonacademy.com> Cc: Joe Whitehead <jwhitehead@masonacademy.com> Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Parent/teacher/assistant principal meeting needs to be set up RE: Accident</jwhitehead@masonacademy.com></ehuck@masonacademy.com>

Was there an issue today which requires an expedited meeting? I have two other children besides my own to pick up and drop off, with time constraints.

Please note the issue with sold shelt causing the first two accidents was remedied. That was the first couple weeks of school and we have not had issues since. The later was an unexpected onset of the later was an unexpected on the later was an une

Kind Regards,

Valerie Parker

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2015, at 1:42 PM, Erica Huck < ehuck@masonacademy.com wrote: Can we meet with you briefly today? We need to meet as soon as possible. Mrs. Huck

From: Valerie Parker [mailto:
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 1:29 PM
To: Erica Huck <ehuck@masonacademy.com>
Cc: jwhitehead@masonacademy.com; remy home <
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Parent/teacher/assistant principal meeting needs to be set up RE:
Accident
Importance: High

Dear Mrs. Huck,

My husband and I are more than happy to meet with you. However, he is away this week. That said, we are able to meet next Monday morning.

Thank you,

Valerie Parker

On Sep 14, 2015, at 10:15 AM, Erica Huck wrote:

Dear Mrs. Parker,

It is important that we meet some time today or tomorrow morning to discuss accidents in school. Mr. Whitehead and myself will be at this meeting.

Please respond soon: what time is best for you today or tomorrow morning. Best regards,

Mrs. Huck

From: Valerie Parker < Subject: Re: Accident

Date: September 11, 2015 6:03:55 PM EDT To: Erica Huck < ehuck@masonacademy.com>

Please note that has NEVER had any accidents ever during time at and attended school every day. has always been able to handle independently in the bathroom. Indeed this is third accident, as the last two where wet pants was because had trouble with belt which we practiced and now is proficient at taking on and off. I chalk today up as an emergency situation, as upon coming home, had further unexpected bathroom visits - so I think this needs to be treated as such.

Here are the various articles, television reports and letters to the editor

about this incident. The letters to the editor were very damaging, especially since it was based on lies.

Exclusive: investigating Collier charter school Posted: Nov 11, 2015 6:17 PM EST By Bryan Anderson, NBC2 Investigator CONNECT bryan.anderson@nbc-2.com COLLIER COUNTY, FL -A charter school founded by a sitting Collier County school board member is under investigation. The NBC2 Investigators confirmed the is investigating Mason Classical Academy for mental injury and inadequate supervision. - Using our app? CLICK HERE to watch video was just a couple weeks into when parents said from Mason Classical Academy because had two bathroom accidents. Charter schools can't students. This is a lie. As you know from the email evidence provided, had more than two accidents and the nature of the accidents were not typical considering the child pulled out feces from pants and spread it in the classroom and bathroom. This week, launched an investigation into the school. It's the second open investigation this year. "The whole experience was very surreal, and I think we're still trying to rebound from that," mom Valerie Parker said. It took weeks for Valerie Parker and her husband, Remy, to open up about the incident. " knew had to go to the bathroom. tummy rumbled. tried to hold it in, and then all of the sudden back got wet," Valerie Parker said. They say had an accident. Then they received an email from school officials saying if it happened again, would be un-enrolled. had gone to the year before, five days a week and never had an issue," father Remy Parker said. But when it happened again, they said "I was in shock. I was kind of confused. It just seemed very harsh type of punishment," Valerie Parker said. The email evidence between Mrs. Parker and school officials do not match this story she is reporting on the nightly news. She told us about another incident where a child at the school flushed underwear down the toilet. In order to find out who did it. Valerie said school officials asked to see multiple children's underwears. "Either in a set of two or three children, and had them pull down their waistband of their pants and uncover their underwear band to ensure they indeed had underwear on," Valerie Parker said. Assistant Principal Joe Whitehead acknowledged a clog that day in an email. He wouldn't answer whether faculty asked kids to show their underwear. "No child removed any article of clothing. No child was touched. In most cases, children were able to respond and give us something verbally," Whitehead said. Mason Classical Academy founder had the following to say, "To me this looks

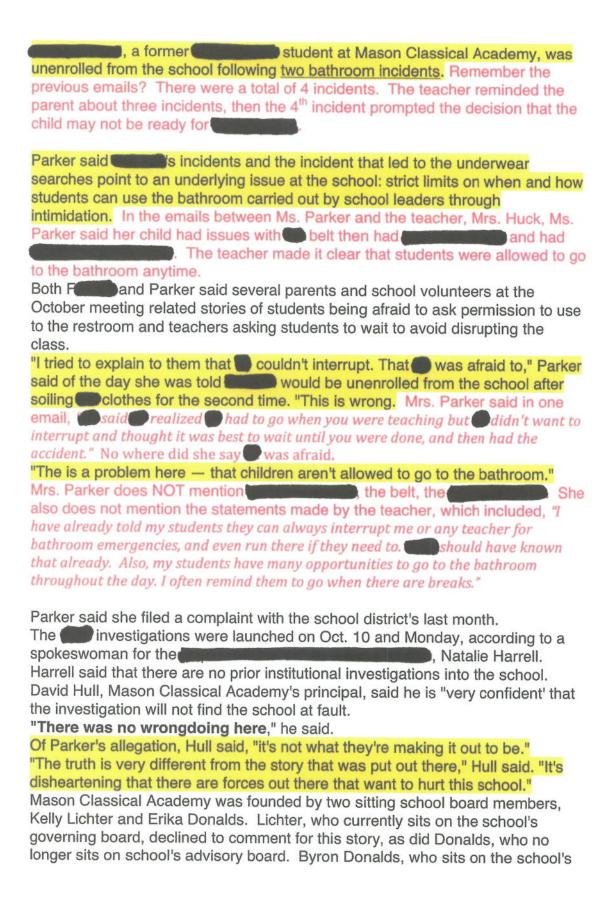
like a targeted attempt to attach a school. Why wasn't this brought up two months ago? Why not put it to rest then? Because it has been put to rest." "It makes you think that there's kind of a culture issue. There's something wrong," Remy Parker said. Mr. Parker made no mention of the nature of Child's accidents. I am not aware of Spreading their own feces all over the classroom and bathroom. Wouldn't confirm details about its two investigations, other than allegations of mental injury and inadequate supervision. "Parents are fearful. They're nervous," Valerie Parker said. Her narrative certainly changed. The Parkers have pulled their South out of Mason Classical Academy as well. Total value of Mason Classical Academy as well. Total value of Mason Classical Academy as well.
By Melhor Leonor of the Naples Daily News Mason Classical Academy, a Collier County charter school founded by two sitting board members, is under investigation by the for alleged "mental injury" and "inappropriate supervision." At least one of the investigations was triggered in part by an incident recounted to parents at a meeting called by the school last month — where school administrators told parents that after finding a child's soiled underwear in a school toilet, they began asking students individually to untuck their shirts and show the waistband of their underwear. Least one of the investigations was triggered in part by an incident recounted to parents at a meeting called by the school last month — where school administrators tolder they began asking students individually to untuck their shirts and show the waistband of their underwear. Least one of the investigations was triggered in part by an incident recounted to parents at a meeting a child's soiled underwear in a school toilet, they began asking students individually to untuck their shirts and show the waistband of their underwear. Least one of the investigations was triggered in part by an incident recounted to parents at a meeting a child's soiled underwear in a school toilet, they began asking students individually to untuck their shirts and show the waistband of their underwear. Least one of the investigations was triggered in part by an incident recounted to parents white such as the incident recounted to parents at a meeting and said was part of the search. For a said he and other parents questioned the method used by administrators to identify the child who had unsuccessfully flushed their underwear and why they were not told immediately about what had happened. "Parents were asking, "Why is it that we were not informed that this was

great deal of concern."

Questions also arose as to whether the incident constituted a strip search, which federal and state law prohibit in most cases — particularly in a school setting. Florida statute defines a "strip search" as having a person remove or rearrange their clothing "so as to permit a visual or manual inspection of the genitals; or undergarments of such person."

happening, at the time or immediately after?' " F said. "Parents began finding out from their children. That's a failure of communication that caused a

Valerie Parker, a parent of former Mason Classical Academy students, was also present at the October meeting. Parker said in an interview that her



governing board and is also running for a local seat in the state House of Representatives, said he is confident in the school's leadership.

"My own kids go to this school. I know the staff and the teachers are working hard to provide a good education in a safe environment." Donalds said.

Letter: Wait on judgment

Posted: Nov. 19, 2015 Jacob Winge, East Naples Wait on judgment

After just learning about the state

investigation of Mason Classical Academy, I'd like to ask everyone to do two things. Don't make allegations. When the investigation is complete, someone will take responsibility, either the board or school-employed leadership.

Next, don't use this subject to get away from the purpose of the school, which is to provide education.

This is a major issue, make no mistake, and someone will be held accountable. However, as a community we must not let it affect our kids. They're the most important thing to note in all this, they're what education is all about.

As much as I am in dismay and disgust about what is said to have occurred, I trust to put on a responsible investigation and for officials at Mason Classical

Academy to respond like professionals, with civility and responsibility.

Letter: Shame

Posted: Jan. 23, 2016 Stephen Weisberg, Naples

A recent letter to the editor of the Daily News asked why the story about the bathroom incident, and subsequent search of some of the boys, at Mason Classical Academy made it into the newspaper.

The Daily News publishes stories which express concern for children's well-being, including incidents at Collier County Public Schools.

Like other schools in the county, Mason Classical Academy is taking public dollars. Reporting about a school which should be educating students in a safe and respectful setting is holding that school publicly accountable.

There is also the potential for a conflict of interest, having two Collier County School Board members, Kelly Lichter and Erika Donalds, involved with the leadership of the school either directly or through a family member.

No other serving School Board member maintained ties to a Collier County Public School. So, where best can a factual, unbiased investigative report come from? It must come from our newspaper with its excellent reporters and editors. The subsequent letters serve as a community discussion.

The writer asks, "What would you think if your kid flushed a pair of underwear down the toilet? What would you think if you had to pay a plumber thousands of

dollars to fix the problem?" My first thoughts are about the young health, and not causing a child to feel shame for having an accident, or in exercising understandable age-appropriate judgment and behavior. The problem seems to be the shame-based culture at the school, not the need to call a plumber. Our responsibility is to protect the health and welfare of our students, not to shame them.

Letter: Moral outrage

Posted: Dec. 26, 2015 Stephen Weisberg, Naples

As a long-term advocate and physician provider for children, I felt moral outrage upon learning from articles in the Naples Daily News of actions taken by the administrators and/or teachers at Mason Classical Academy regarding the soiling of 's underwear.

They physically searched for evidence of who was not wearing underwear after finding underwear clogging a school toilet. Another was asked to leave the school for a soiling accident.

Both of these actions constitute shaming behavior on the part of school authorities. Are these incidents representative of how school leaders solve problems? The issue of the law and illegal search will be determined by state authorities. Schools must follow the highest ethical standards in their approach to children. Parents must trust their children will be safe and respected, especially in school. While the law must be followed and is at issue, we must address the impact on all of the children in the school. No children should be shamed. Accidents happen to all of us. Shaming can cause lasting damage to children's self-esteem.

Adults must learn and exhibit appropriate behavior when helping to educate children.

The leadership of Mason Classical Academy, including the board, administrators and teachers, must be held accountable for their behavior and actions.

I ask the Naples Daily News to continue to follow and expand the story, reporting on who from Mason Classical Academy has accepted responsibility, and what measures the school staff has taken to rectify their behavior which appears to be unethical, shaming and emotionally devastating.

We must stand with and for our children.

Letter: Disturbing if true

Posted: Nov. 21, 2015 Ellen Richman, Naples

I was appalled to read in the Daily News about the "underwear" incident at Mason Classical Academy.

If indeed the facts are accurate, how can the school's principal and teachers call themselves educators? Do they not know the first thing about child psychology? How terrified the "offending" grade child whose soiled underwear was in a school toilet must have been while administrators carried out a search to see which

student wasn't wearing underwear. And the students subjected to the search were undoubtedly confused if not upset.

Any reasonable person should know that children have toilet accidents. A school serving young children should have an understanding and supportive staff so that any child could feel able to tell his/her teacher about an "accident" and have it dealt with lovingly and privately.

Again, if the facts as presented are accurate, then shame on Mason Classical Academy, its principal and staff who allowed this outrage to happen to its children.

I think the evidence is very clear that this was indeed a false report with the malicious intent to harm Mason Classical Academy. On page 2 of the Operational Procedure document under f.(4) "Has any contradictory statements been made?" The emails from Mrs. Parker contradict her statements in the report. In so operational procedure regarding false reports it state, letter f.(6) "Have statements been made during the investigation, which indicate retaliation?" Because she made her false report almost 2 months later then notifed the media of her report, she was retaliating against the school because the school notified her that could not attend MCA unless was potty trained and that there had to be a plan put in place moving forward.

Our reputation has been damaged, and we could never tell our side of the story, because our attorney advised us that we would be violating federal privacy laws. I ask that take this seriously and alert law enforcement about this false report. I would be happy to discuss this further. Please feel free to call me to schedule an appointment: 239-285-3599. Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter.

Kind regards, Kelly Lichter