

Zinser, Leanne

From: Fishbane, Jon (Jonathan)
Sent: Sunday, November 18, 2018 7:32 PM
To: 'dhull@masonacademy.com'
Cc: 'sarnold@arnoldlawfirmllc.com'
Subject: RE: Context and Truth Matters

Dear Mr. Hull:

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your email and the accompanying attachments for which I thank you. I appreciate your writing to me. However, as a matter of professional ethics, I am unable to respond further given that MCA has legal counsel(Mr. Arnold) whom I am copying.

Sincerely,

Jon Fishbane



Jon Fishbane

District General Counsel

Collier County Public Schools

5775 Osceola Trail | Naples, FL 34109

p: 239.377.0498 |email: fishbj@collierschools.com

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From: Mason Classical Academy [mailto:info@masonacademy.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Mason Classical Academy
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 8:31 PM
To: Fishbane, Jon (Jonathan)
Subject: Context and Truth Matters

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MASON
CLASSICAL
ACADEMY

NAPLES, FLORIDA

FOUNDED 2014

Hello Mr. Fishbane,

During my first ever meeting with the CCPS Director of Charter Schools in early 2014, Dr. Jan Messer offered prophetic words so interesting that I asked her to repeat them in order for my counterpart to hear as well. She did repeat them. Dr. Messer said, "David, you know what you did, right? You went around all of Collier County, plucked out the most demanding parents from all schools, and plopped them into one building." At the time, I didn't really understand her position. Now that meeting stands as a moment I will never forget because these past 4+ years have proven to me almost daily just how profound and accurate her implication was; although "demanding" may not have been the word I would have chosen. The vast majority of our parents demand quality education because MCA promises to deliver just that. In fact, I would even consider myself a parent among their "demanding" ranks. As you will see, Dr. Messer was talking about a certain type of demanding parent who should be in a separate category. Their volume, complaints, intensity, and accusations tell you who they are without me having to list them here. I write to you because I believe you are a reasonable, intelligent, truth-seeking man. Not only have I witnessed that for myself on multiple occasions, but Shawn Arnold also believes as much. My hope is that you will consider Dr. Messer's words as you read mine while continuing your investigation into MCA, if that is indeed happening.

Attached to this email is a document including much of my communication with the Baird family. It is lengthy because context matters. Truth matters. I don't include anything going backward past July 2017 because its only relevance would be to show more unnecessary Baird praise for MCA, our teachers, and myself. Instead, included in the attached document are emails between the Bairds and myself over the past year-and-a-half, showing the progression from support and happiness to revenge and anger. Also not included are emails involving other disgruntled people going back as far as one of our first outspoken parents, upset over a bathroom incident involving her kindergartener (one of many messy incidents involving this child): she went on the news and social media, and lied repeatedly. And that she convinced even those closest to

her that her story was true does not matter, as we have lots of proof about the truth of that situation (in her own words). When a bathroom mess is so bad that a custodian outright refuses to clean it up, there is a major problem. But I digress, because I could say pretty much the same about all the incidents in between that one years ago and the Baird one today - that only one side is being discussed, and it's not our side. Context matters, and we have overwhelming context about every situation you seem to be looking into. The attached document is but only one small piece of our contextual evidence.

For now, I ask again that you seriously consider Dr. Messer's words. Many of the parents who have been part of Joe Baird's "numbers game", as he likes to put it on social media, are the very ones who gave Dr. Patton and her teachers such strife for years. Or they are so anti-public school, like the Bairds, that they chose to have nothing to do with public school. Of course Dr. Messer's "most demanding parents" title excludes the overwhelming majority of our current parents and too many home school families to count. Nevertheless, I could list names of the disgruntled, vitriolic ones, and I am positive that you, Dr. Patton, or school board members would know exactly who I am talking about. Surely many of your principals would know who they are; I've been told that some of them secretly thank me for dealing with those types at MCA so they don't have to. In sum, the most vocal ones were simply told 'no' to something they wanted - sports, clubs, courses, volunteering, special programs, social grade promotion, you name it. They simply could not handle being told 'no'. The attached Baird document clearly outlines this premise. The Bairds were told 'no' when they wanted their [REDACTED] grade [REDACTED] in my guitar class. They were told 'no' when they weren't allowed to continue with our sports program after withdrawing from MCA. Until being told 'no', they loved everything about the school. Then they left MCA. Then they were recruited by the anti-MCA mob. Then they became resentful and angry. Then they initiated their revenge.

I watched for years as Dr. Patton and others took a pounding at the podium, in print media, and on social media. I cringed at the hatred of the public school system by people on all sides. I despised the politics that were brought into the public education arena based on ideology, entitlement mentality, and ego. But know this: I have always remained focused on one thing - truth. If there is one thing that I may have done successfully, although unintentionally, it has been to unite the extremes from both sides in their anger towards me. The litany of MCA complainers you are hearing from makes for the strangest bedfellows anyone can imagine. Their anger does not constitute truth, however; and their anger does not prove "abuse" or "financial mismanagement". Their anger constitutes a mob fueled by emotion, rage, and pride, and they have proved Dr. Messer's words to be more true than I ever thought they could be.

Going forward, I see two ways this can play out.

- The first way is for you to continue investigating MCA based on those many complaints you have received. We are fine with this as our paper

trail of context and truth is quite literally a mile long, and we are quite excited to share it. Many, if not all of the people complaining to you will have serious egg on their face. Many who have believed the accusers without knowing what we know will be embarrassed, and some of the accusers will perhaps be criminally prosecuted. I am confident that you know our school board president is finished playing games with these people and is chomping at the bit to expose their lies, exaggerations, and distortions, and she will easily be able to do so. She will also have tremendous support through our extremely vocal and passionate parent base, happy teachers and staff, and myself. This, of course, is the second choice because I truly believe the anger, pride, and hysteria from all sides needs to stop in the best interest of MCA students, the community, CCPS, and quality public education. Prolonging this investigation will take time, energy, and resources from far too many people, including yourself, to do any real good. That being said, a continued investigation is an option we are more than willing to accept if this is your choice. We are confident that truth will prevail, and the hysterics will finally be exposed. Perhaps it's been a long time coming and needs to happen anyway.

- The second way is for you to quickly conclude your investigation of MCA, and announce its end to the public. This, of course, is contingent on having found no illegal or unethical practices occurring. If there are such cases of "abuse" or "financial mismanagement" as the Baird complaint suggests, then by all means continue with your obligation to protect taxpayer dollars and citizens. I would expect nothing less and do the same myself. Taxpayer dollars should not be mismanaged, and no one should be abused. That being said, I am quite confident that you will find no such cases against MCA because there are no such cases. Those negatives cannot be proven because they did not happen. The mob members' relative truths are simply not objective truths. I do not claim that MCA and its personnel are infallible, but we are ethical, honest, hard-working, and lawful. You have seen the MCA academic track record, finances, instruction, and more. The board and CCPS administration have been invited to MCA multiple times over many years to come and spend time in the school with transparent, unfettered, unannounced access. MCA has had audits, oversight, and observations ad nauseam. We performed well enough for long enough that CCPS reduced our 5% fee to 2% and extended our contract for 15 years. With your new board in place, CCPS and MCA can become closer partners for the good of all Collier children: if you recall, I even tried to put in our new contract ways for MCA teachers to visit your schools to see and share best practices (that fell through because of paranoia over a nefarious delay of our contract extension). I have been hoping for such a partnership, but thwarted continuously by hysteria from all sides. I could go on and on why it would be the good option for you to conclude this investigation quickly. The main reason is because it will finally quiet the

hysterical mob that has harmed both of our efforts toward delivering quality public education. Our students, parents, teachers, and you all deserve that outcome. Announcing the end of your investigation will disperse the mob, reduce tensions, heal wounds, and finally bring Dr. Messer's prophesy to an end.

In sum, I am thankful for the new board coming into the mix. Mr. Terry and Mr. Carter have both met with me personally at MCA, and I have a genuine respect for them both. During and after our meetings, I thought the feeling was mutual. All of the new CCPS board members, Mrs. Lucarelli, administrators, and yourself, Mr. Fishbane, are always more than welcome to come over to MCA and see things first hand at any time. All are encouraged to come and meet with me face-to-face, interview our Business Manager, talk with our teachers, observe classroom instruction, and hang out with our students. We have absolutely nothing to hide. Whether people believe it or not, I am a staunch supporter of public education and only want the best outcome for as many students as possible. I am proud to be part of Collier County Public Schools. If there is something I can do to work with you toward continuous improvement toward an end goal of quality public education, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

[Click here to view the attached document previously mentioned.](#)

Best wishes to you and everyone included on this email. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

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Mason Classical Academy, 3073 Horseshoe Drive S., Naples, FL 34104

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Sent by dhull@masonacademy.com in collaboration with



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This document begins with an email from S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] on July 9, 2017. At that time they had [REDACTED] students enrolled with MCA, and the school worked to allow most of their children participate in sports and clubs for free. It takes a turn January 22, 2018 when [REDACTED] withdraws from MCA: note that by this time [REDACTED] has already been accepted to all colleges of [REDACTED] choice with incredible amounts of scholarship and grants, a glowing recommendation letter from the principal, [REDACTED] sports and club choices ended before the holiday break, and [REDACTED] final thesis project was the only thing left for [REDACTED] to complete in order to graduate MCA. It ends with an email from me to Dr. Patton and Mr. Terry after the Bairds began their vengeful crusade, angry at being denied the opportunity to homeschool and still participate on the MCA sports team, and an interview request from the local newspaper. All text is unedited, with the exception of one small section on page 16, dated Feb. 16, 2018, being highlighted in red for obvious purposes. This document does not include many positive, thankful, friendly, personal emails between the Bairds and Hulls throughout the years.

From: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2017 12:53 PM
To: cmarshall@masonacademy.com
Subject: Cross Country

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I hope you are enjoying your summer holiday.

I am hoping to sign up my [REDACTED] oldest for cross country this year. The fee is \$175 per child which would make the cost close to \$[REDACTED] for our family. In past years, we were given a discount for multiple children. Is there anything that can be done this year? I asked Mr. Bucknell but he has referred me to you.

Many thanks for your help in this,

S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2017 3:00 PM
To: 'S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Matthew Bucknell <mbucknell@masonacademy.com>; 'Samantha Lucas' <slucas@masonacademy.com>; Susan Turner <sturner@masonacademy.com>
Subject: RE: Cross Country

Mrs. B [REDACTED],

We are implementing a update to the Family Discount approach to fees for Clubs and Sports this year.

Families are not charged for more than 3 sports a year. Families are not charged for more than 3 Clubs a year.

Once a family has paid for their 3 Sports, they join a sport using this [form](#). We will have a similar form for Clubs.

Chuck Marshall
[Mason Classical Academy](#)

From: S [redacted] B [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2017 4:35 PM
To: 'Chuck Marshall' <cmarshall@masonacademy.com>
Cc: 'David Hull' <dhull@masonacademy.com>; 'Kelly Lichter' <klichter@masonacademy.com>
Subject: RE: Cross Country

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Does this mean that after I have paid for three children to participate in cross country, the rest will be free?

Thanks,
S [redacted]

Yes.

Chuck Marshall
[Mason Classical Academy](#)

On Jul 9, 2017, at 4:50 PM, S [redacted] B [redacted] <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi David and Kelly,

I didn't mean to include you on that last email. I had no idea I had. Please don't worry about it – Mr. Marshall clarified the policy.

I hope you are resting up and enjoying your summer!

S [redacted]

From: David Hull [mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2017 5:12 PM
To: S [redacted] B [redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Sorry

Ha! I was wondering why you did that. No problem. I hope you are happy about the new policy. We should just call it the "B [redacted] Policy. "

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

VERY happy. Thank you very much!!

S [REDACTED]

From: David Hull [<mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 11:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Transcripts and School Profile

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your patience on the transcripts matter! The official MCA Transcripts stamp and embossing tool arrived this morning, and we are all set to send you the documents to colleges of your choice. Before we do, it would be appreciated if you could give each one a close look. Any errors, discrepancies, etc. that you find, or questions you have, would be helpful to our process. Since you are the first student requesting these documents, as well as the top student in terms of class ranking, we value your input greatly! And, of course, your opinions are welcome also.

Best regards,
Mr. Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

Dear Mr. Hull,

My transcript and the school profile look so professional! I am very impressed. Thank you so much for taking the time to make sure they are beautiful, clear, and concise.

There were a few things, however, I would like to have changed if possible in my transcript:

First, I do not have a grade shown for [REDACTED] which I took at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I have attached my transcript from my [REDACTED] year, which shows the [REDACTED] I received in that class.

Secondly, all of my classes for my [REDACTED] year say "Home Education" under the school name. I was enrolled with [REDACTED], and though I did learn at home, my parents were not involved in my studies at all. The courses were taught through online classes – each with its own teacher.

([http://www.\[REDACTED\]./](http://www.[REDACTED]./)) I was wondering if you could change it from "Home Education" to "[REDACTED]".

Finally, would you consider adding the Shakespeare in Performance to the list of MCA Extra-Curricular Offerings? In my application essays, I spoke about that particular [REDACTED] quite extensively.

On a side note, I noticed that under my classes for this coming school year, I am taking [REDACTED] as my math course. I had hoped to take calculus this year. Is that still an option?

Thank you so much!

On Aug 5, 2017, at 5:47 PM, S [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi David,

I just wanted to check on the possibility of [REDACTED] taking a Calculus course this year. I understand from Mr. Marshall that it is not being offered as a math option for high school. This is an important course for [REDACTED] to have if [REDACTED] decides on attending [REDACTED] which has a very intensive mathematics program. Can you let me know what options are available?

Thank you for your help!

S [REDACTED]

Good morning,

Unfortunately, Mr. Marshall is correct. For this year, [REDACTED] is all we can offer to the students who took Precalculus last year. Not enough students signed up for Calculus this year. Being that the senior class is as small as it is, we were unable to accommodate the very few who did want Calculus.

Our schedule depends quite a bit on what students come to us with. The first year, there were four students who needed Precalculus, which we were not able to offer. They had to take Florida Virtual since there was nothing else we had for them. Last year, there was no Probability and Statistics, so we were able to offer Calculus to two students. This year, most of last year's Precalculus students wanted [REDACTED] over Calculus. We can't force such a high level math class that is years above state requirements.

[REDACTED] did have Precalculus, which included Trigonometry. That's higher than most students go in high school. [REDACTED] transcript is very impressive, and I believe [REDACTED] will surely notice what [REDACTED] has accomplished.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Sun, Oct 22, 2017 at 11:05 AM, Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi David,

Thanks for the invitation. I talked to S [REDACTED], and I don't think it's going to work. S [REDACTED] will be at the hospital on Saturday [REDACTED] early Sunday morning. Adding a fishing trip and a party to the weekend agenda seems overwhelming. I want S [REDACTED] to be well rested when the baby arrives. I hope you understand.

I'd love to do it another time if you go again! Thanks for thinking of me.

Joe

So having a baby is a higher priority than fishing? How could you!

Just kidding. I totally understand. I do regret making it on that day now as I just found out about the cross country party then as well. We were really hoping to have you all (especially your children) over with some other families. If

that is possible, the fish fry begins at about 4:00. Even if [REDACTED] drives them over, we'd be happy about it. Either way, no problem.

Have you seen this news from the webpage? Very exciting!

http://masonclassicalacademy.com/apps/news/show_news.jsp?REC_ID=475958&id=0

David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: November 3, 2017 at 11:45:13 AM EDT
To: "David Hull" <dhull@masonacademy.com>

Good morning Mr. Hull,

I wanted to let you know that [REDACTED] will be travelling to [REDACTED] [https://\[REDACTED\]](https://[REDACTED]) to compete for their Founder's Scholarship November 9th through the 13th and will not be in school on those days.

[REDACTED] chooses the top 20 applicants to their school to compete in an intense academic weekend – the prize being a full-tuition, four year scholarship (value close to \$90,000.00). Their choice is based on the student's application to the college (which consists of an essay and a phone interview among other things) and also on excellence in academic achievement, work ethic, and communication skills. [REDACTED] was chosen as one of the 20 and so [REDACTED] will be off to compete for the scholarship on those days.

I want to thank you very much for the GREAT transcript and information sheet about MCA that [REDACTED] was able to provide to the schools [REDACTED] has applied to. I think this went a long way in helping [REDACTED] to qualify for the competition and in helping [REDACTED] get accepted to THREE colleges now! And of course, thank you for the excellent education that MCA provides.

Thanks for all you do!

S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]

Hello,

This is wonderful news! If there is anything I can do, please let me know. Attached is a letter I wrote for [REDACTED] and I met about it this morning.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: Annaleah Miravalle <amiravalle@masonacademy.com>
Date: November 6, 2017 at 8:26:37 AM EST
To: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Baird Baby

Hello Principal Hull,

I'm sorry to bother you about something not school related, but I was wondering if you know if there is a meal prep organization for the Baird's new baby.

Thank you!

Ms. Miravalle

On Dec 21, 2017, at 2:11 AM, <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Mr. Hull and Mr. Marshall,

I am not sure who this email should be directed to, so I thought I would send it to both of you.

[REDACTED] signed up for Classical Guitar at the beginning of the year and then checked with you, Mr. Marshall, last quarter to be sure that [REDACTED] was on the list. You assured [REDACTED] was. As it turns out, however, [REDACTED] is not in the class. Was there a reason for the change?

Is there anything that can be done to get [REDACTED] into the class? [REDACTED] was pretty disappointed so I told [REDACTED] I would look into it for [REDACTED].

Thank you and Merry Christmas,

S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]

From: David Hull [<mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 2:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com>; Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Classical Guitar

Hello,

I'm sorry To hear that [REDACTED] is disappointed. A firm requirement of this class is that every student is an absolute beginner. From what I've seen, [REDACTED] is already past where some of last year's students made it by the end of the class. With [REDACTED]'s current guitar skills, [REDACTED] would not get anything from the class, and I wouldn't feel right having [REDACTED] sit there without learning. If you'd like the DVD set I have, we can arrange for that. Just let me know!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Dec 21, 2017, at 12:36 PM, <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you, Mr. Hull, for your reply.

[REDACTED] would love to borrow the DVD set from you if you are able to loan it.

Thanks again,

S [REDACTED]

Thank you for understanding! I will also try to include [REDACTED] if and when special times present themselves. I tried to do that at the sock hop (a rendition of Earth Angel on the spot), but wasn't able to pull it off. Take care!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: David Hull [mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 9:38 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: College News

Hello MCA Seniors,

Happy new year! Have you heard back from any colleges during the break or before? If so, could you please respond to this email with some information? It would help us quite a bit if you could share all colleges you've been accepted to thus far, in addition to how many dollars you have been offered in scholarships from each college.

Thank you,

Mr. Hull, Principal

Mason Classical Academy

On Wed, Jan 3, 2018 at 10:37 AM, <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mr. Hull,

I have not been accepted to any new colleges.

As you know, I was accepted to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] offered me 5,500 yearly and [REDACTED] offered me 12,000 yearly.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

[REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for the quick reply! Congratulations on your college success so far. Please let me know if, when, and how I can support you in the coming months.

Take care,
Mr. Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Jan 22, 2018, at 10:17 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Hull,

I have decided to withdraw from Mason Classical Academy and am enrolling in online classes with [REDACTED]. I have been suffering from almost constant [REDACTED], which long hours at school only aggravated. My parents agree that it is better for me to be at home. I must admit that I am also very burned out and completely exhausted from the pressure and stress of college decisions, scholarships, and trying to stay on top of assignments. The long, grueling school days with few breaks and the homework, which after being already exhausted from classes all day is hard enough to complete, have really taken their toll on my health. I have lost all desire to go to college. I cannot even force myself to commit to a college because I cannot bear the idea of signing myself up for four more years of study. I have done my best at MCA, but I feel as if something inside of me is broken and I need to refocus and refresh before deciding on university.

Would you mind please sending a copy of my transcript to [REDACTED]? The copy which you sent me a while ago said that I was in [REDACTED]. If you would mind making sure that the transcript you send is updated and shows that I am taking [REDACTED] with FLVS, I would be very appreciative. [REDACTED]'s contact information is:

By mail:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By phone:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By Email:

[REDACTED]

I imagine I will have to come in and pick up my belongings and books. Would it be alright if I did that tomorrow morning before school starts?

Thank you for the two and a half years I spent at Mason. I've learned a lot and I appreciate what you've done for me. I wish you all the best.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>

Subject: Re: **Withdrawing**

Date: January 22, 2018 at 11:38:23 AM EST

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>

Hello [REDACTED] and Baird Family,

I have to express my serious concern over this decision. This is completely out of the blue. Can we please meet in person to discuss ASAP?

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Jan 23, 2018, at 7:17 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear David,

I just wanted to write you a quick note to let you know that we are sorry to have caused you or the school any harm. Please know that we did realize that our decision would not be easy for you. However, as a parent, you must realize that [REDACTED]'s [REDACTED] had to take priority. We would never have allowed [REDACTED] to withdraw unless we thought it would help [REDACTED] immensely, which even in this short time has shown to be the case. [REDACTED] pretty much had a complete [REDACTED]. We really did think it was in [REDACTED] best interest to withdraw from everything for a while and focus on finishing high school in the quiet of [REDACTED] own home.

That said, there is a rumor going around that you have told a student that [REDACTED] has dropped out of high school. I don't know if you did in fact say this to someone, but the rumor has spread throughout the school. This is completely false. [REDACTED] is indeed already engaged in online classes through [REDACTED] which is an excellent classical program and the one we used prior to coming to MCA. [REDACTED] will graduate on June 1st with a high school diploma and all needed credits. I would appreciate it, regardless of where the rumor originated, if you would assist in correcting the perception that [REDACTED] is a high school drop out.

Would you do me the courtesy to let me know what you can do to stop the gossip about [REDACTED]? [REDACTED] really does not need any more stress or worry in [REDACTED] life right now.
Thank you,

S [REDACTED]

From: David Hull [<mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 11:48 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Hello Mrs. B [REDACTED],

As you know, I usually write back immediately to all parent emails. With this one, I had to sleep on it because I wasn't sure quite how to respond. Actually, I'm still not sure how. There is much I could say, but I will be direct and to the point, hopefully answering your specific questions.

1. In the spirit of honesty, I had a tough time reading what you wrote. It is offensive and wrong. Of course I would never start a rumor about a student. Of course I have nothing whatsoever to do with that. People who truly know me would know that I would have nothing to do with that. To answer your question, no, I did not tell a student that [REDACTED] has dropped out of high school. The accusation is absurd and offensive. That you would go so far as to write one of my bosses and say that is beyond the pale.

2. You should know that I am unable to control rumors and gossip. It has proven an impossible task, even though I do what I can. Time is the only thing, in my humble opinion, that can heal all wounds. Truth helps, but there seems to be a severe lack of truth everywhere I look. People are running on perceptions rather than truth, which is extremely unfortunate.

3. I realize that every family has its own unique situations, especially when teenagers are involved. I have already reconciled in my mind that [REDACTED] will not be returning to MCA. I have a job to do, which requires me to put things in the past quickly and move on in the best interest of 80 employees and 840 students. I have no animosity or ill will toward any Baird at all. Your children are outstanding. I only wish [REDACTED] and you the best and hope that you can resolve any of your own issues that cause you and your family problems or pain.

I have always been there for you and your family, through good times and bad. I have looked out personally for each one of your children for all the years I have known them. I have recognized them and praised them all. And I will continue to do so. I sincerely hope that [REDACTED] finds what [REDACTED]'s looking for and is able to find health happiness. While others continue to project their perceptions onto me and the school, attempting to justify their own issues and problems, I will continue to pursue the true and take the hits as they come.

Respectfully,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 1, 2018, at 7:51 PM, <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi David,

My apologies for taking so long to reply to your email. Like you, I wasn't quite sure how to respond and wanted to take some time to get my thoughts together.

I am very happy to hear that you are not the one responsible for the rumor about [REDACTED]. I am sorry that you were offended that I even asked, but I did hear from multiple, trustworthy sources that you had in fact said this. I knew you were very upset that day and thought perhaps it had been said hastily in the heat of the moment to someone. In any case, I did do what you always recommend, and that is to go to the source to find out the truth. I did. I asked you. And I am very glad, and much relieved to find that it is untrue.

For what it is worth, I spoke to Kelly about the rumor not in the spirit of tattling on you to your boss, but only because Kelly is my friend, and I was upset about what I had heard. I did tell her it was only a rumor and that she should take it with a grain of salt. These are my exact words to her:

"David seems to have taken this very hard. He called us and was very upset. But what hurt the most was that he showed very little concern for [REDACTED]. Instead, he wanted to know how we could have done this to him. We were absolutely shocked at his reaction. It also appears (although take this with a grain of salt, since it is only something the other kids have heard from other students and teachers) that he told at least one student and one teacher that [REDACTED] dropped out of high school completely. This was the last thing [REDACTED] needed right now, especially after this morning when [REDACTED] came in to the school at 7:30 am to get [REDACTED] belongings and the administration refused to allow [REDACTED] to say good bye to [REDACTED] teachers and classmates."

In retrospect, I should not have mentioned the rumor until I cleared that up with you, and for that I am very, very sorry. I said it because I was very upset as well. I was upset at your reaction. You are our friend, David, and instead of showing concern for [REDACTED], you showed only selfishness and anger. Forgive me for saying this, but I must be truthful in telling you how you came across to us that day.

I am very grateful for you and for all you have done for the school and for our family. I think I may have told you this before, but the only reason we were comfortable enrolling our children in MCA is because you were there to guide it, and that is still the case. There are very few people we would entrust our children to, and you have always been one of them. MCA is the success that it is because of you.

On a different note, this whole ordeal with [REDACTED] has brought some concerns to our mind about some of the practices at MCA. Although [REDACTED] was due to multiple factors, some of the reason was, in fact, the school. We are very worried that some of our other children will be affected in the same way, and many are already showing symptoms of this. Would you be interested in sitting down with Joe and me and some of the other administration (if they are available) to discuss some of these issues? It would only take 30 minutes at the most.

Many thanks, and again, David, I am sorry about mentioning the rumor to Kelly. That was wrong of me.

Sarah

From: David Hull [<mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 8:00 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Hello,

I would love to have that opportunity. If you don't mind, I will ask Mr. Read to join us. Next week works. Right now is a very trying time. I will get back with some days and times soon.

Thank you for reaching out. I had planned on doing the same.

Best regards,

David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 3, 2018, at 4:26 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks, David. Just let us know what day and time works best for you.

Would it be okay if we also included Mrs. Van Vlymen, Mr. Whitehead, and/or Mr. Kinnick as they were the ones there at the original meeting? Perhaps having Gena Smith there would also be helpful as we have some questions about the curriculum.

Thanks, and have a nice weekend!

S [REDACTED]
Hello,

Let's do Tuesday, February 13 at 10:00. I will have at least one of the teachers you requested in attendance as well.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

Thanks, David. We will see you then.

S [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 6:36 AM
Subject: Leaving early - [REDACTED]
To: Debbie Renda <drenda@masonacademy.com>

Good morning Debbie,

[REDACTED] grade), [REDACTED] grade), and [REDACTED] grade) are [REDACTED] at our church and have to serve a funeral Mass today for one of our parishioners. They will have to leave school at 11:00 am. [REDACTED] has the car, so they can drive with [REDACTED] to the church from school.

I believe [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are at lunch at this time, but [REDACTED] is still in class so I will let both [REDACTED] math and [REDACTED] teacher know as well.

Thanks,

S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]

On Feb 8, 2018, at 10:11 AM, Debbie Renda <drenda@masonacademy.com> wrote:

Mr. Hull,

Is this something that would be excused?

Debbie Renda
Front Office Administrator
Mason Classical Academy

Excused.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

Date: February 15, 2018 at 1:55:02 PM EST

To: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>

Hello Mr. and Mrs. Baird,

I was informed that you have emailed many teachers today to express concerns. If you and I should meet again, we can certainly arrange for that. Please let me know. To keep you updated on details since our meeting in Ms. Van Vlymen's room, I would like to let you know that I have taken seriously what was expressed in that meeting. Your main issue, repeated multiple times by Mr. Baird, was that *"MCA has destroyed the love of the liberal arts in my children. What are you going to do to address my concern?"*

Over the past few weeks, the following has taken place:

1. An hour long meeting with Ms. Van Vlymen, Mr. Kinnick, and Mr. Whitehead.
2. An hour long meeting with Ms. Van Vlymen, Mr. Kinnick, Mr. Read, Mr. Whitehead, Mrs. Smith, and myself.
3. An invitation for you to observe instruction has been repeatedly offered.
4. Teachers have been asked to meet with you to discuss your concerns.
5. You have met with the MCA school board president individually to share your concerns.

These are major efforts that should demonstrate how serious and willing we are to listen. If after these things you are still not convinced that MCA is a great school for your children, then I would sincerely appreciate your suggested course of action for your main issue: *"MCA has destroyed the love of the liberal arts in my children. What are you going to do to address my concern?"* What do you recommend we do to remedy that?

Respectfully, the only way to address that concern at all is for you to seek answers from the people educating your children - the teachers themselves. Perhaps I could be wrong. But perhaps others are in the same boat as you, so the right answer to that question is something I really need to understand. Please let me know soon so that we can begin helping to restore the love of the liberal arts to your children.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Concern
From: David Hull [<mailto:dhull@masonacademy.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 7:48 AM
To: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Baird Meeting

Good morning,

Here is the email I sent to upper school teachers. Hopefully they are reaching out to you to discuss specific concerns you have. Again, if you would like to meet with me, I would be happy to do so. I also would appreciate an answer to how you would address Mr. Baird's concern. We care deeply about you and all of your children and want the best. We also want to ensure that MCA is the best it can be and hopefully grow through concerns families like yours may have.

I really do think we should all take a deep breath and slow down. I completely understand how challenging your life has been as of late and empathize with your situation. We go way back, and I know we can work this out if we give an honest effort for pursuing truth.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Baird Meeting
Date: February 14, 2018 at 9:29:36 AM EST
To: Thomas Kinnick <tkinnick@masonacademy.com>, Jim Nolan <jinolan@masonacademy.com>, Mario Mistretta <mmistretta@masonacademy.com>, Tracey Moran <tmoran@masonacademy.com>, Elise Steffke <esteffke@masonacademy.com>, Sarah Bucknell <sbucknell@masonacademy.com>, Christopher Rand <crand@masonacademy.com>, Steve Read <sread@masonacademy.com>, Lucille Pilarski <lpilarski@masonacademy.com>, Grace Ramsey <gramsey@masonacademy.com>, April Rutherford <arutherford@masonacademy.com>, Robert Tompkins <rtompkins@masonacademy.com>, William Gage <wgage@masonacademy.com>, Lauren Dionne <ldionne@masonacademy.com>, Zachary Harned <zharned@masonacademy.com>, Katrisha Mistretta <kmistretta@masonacademy.com>, Mark Mosley <mmosley@masonacademy.com>

Dear Teachers,

As you may know, [REDACTED] chose to attend an online school to finish out [REDACTED] year. Okay. That is water under the bridge, and we have wished [REDACTED] the best.

Yesterday, Mr. Kinnick, Mr. Read, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Van Vlymen, Mr. Whitehead, and I met with the Baird parents to discuss their concerns with the school. Their concerns are strong enough that they seem to be considering pulling [REDACTED], and perhaps more (and perhaps all) from the school. The reason I write is because of a specific question they repeatedly asked.

"MCA has destroyed the love of the liberal arts in my children. What are you going to do to address our concern?"

Obviously I have serious misgivings about the premise of their concern, which is why I'm reaching out to you.

Other misgivings I have are over a few other specific points they tried to make. One, we focus way too much on testing - both state testing and in class testing. Two, the rigor is too much and too difficult on their children. Three, some of their children "hate" coming to school every day, [REDACTED] in particular. Four, we are Gradgrindian (see *Hard Times* by Dickens) by neglecting the Socratic Method and forcing facts and lots of information ("names and dates") on

the students. Five, one teacher told one of their children that "MCA only pretends not to teach to the test." (No name was given there.) Interestingly, they specifically stated that they had no problem with other students' behavior, language, and such. As you can see, their issue is with instruction and teaching methods. As you may also see, the Baird parents and I do not see eye-to-eye on this issue.

The Bairds are a wonderful family whom I respect and admire, and I would consider them a MCA flagship family. They have been very supportive of the school in the past, and they have expressed love for MCA until lately. Their question strikes at the heart of the school's mission. I can think of no better way to address their specific question than to have our fine faculty address it personally. You all have an upper school [REDACTED] for a student, and you are all phenomenal teachers of character and passion for classical education.

If you are so willing, would you please contact Mr. and Mrs. Baird for face-to-face meetings? You could do it individually. You could partner with another teacher on this email. You could do it in small groups. You could organize into a large group. The goal would be truth - nothing more, nothing less.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 16, 2018, at 8:41 AM, <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you, David, for sending this. I apologize for not answering your email from yesterday. I had [REDACTED] and went to bed shortly after 7:30pm.

Would you mind giving me a call (or we can meet in person if that is better for you) when you have some time? I think sometimes things get confused in emails.

I don't think our meeting went well the other day and much of that is our fault. But there has obviously been some miscommunication that I would very much like to get cleared up.

Thanks,
S [REDACTED]

On Feb 16, 2018 8:50 AM, "David Hull" <dhull@masonacademy.com> wrote:
Hello,

I agree with you about the emailing. There is much lost in translation. What would you like? I can call you or meet in person. Whatever is best for you. I am always available to the Bairds!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 16, 2018, at 8:53 AM, S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Let's meet in person if you don't mind. I am available any time. Just let me know what works best for your schedule.

Thanks,
S [REDACTED]

On Feb 16, 2018 9:01 AM, "David Hull" <dhull@masonacademy.com> wrote:

Today would be a good day, especially if you are already here meeting with someone. I would also like to try to put minds at ease before the weekend so it can be enjoyed, especially by you. You tell me what you'd like, and I'll make it work.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 16, 2018, at 9:03 AM, S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Can you do 10 or 10:30?

On Feb 16, 2018 9:14 AM, "David Hull" <dhull@masonacademy.com> wrote:
10:30 would be perfect. At the school or on the phone?

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 16, 2018, at 9:15 AM, S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I will come to the school.

Great! See you then!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

On Feb 16, 2018, at 9:13 AM, Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi David,

I want to thank you for the efforts you are making - it means a lot to us. I think you and I share a common vision for what the school should be, even if we don't always see eye to eye on everything. I also want to repeat what S [REDACTED] has told you in the past: you are one of the very few people that we are willing to entrust our children's formation to. That is one of the highest compliments I can pay anyone.

I want to apologize for my behavior in our meeting the other day. I became upset and allowed my emotions to dictate a lot of things that were said. Consequently, I'm afraid I did a bad job of articulating our concerns, and it looks like I miscommunicated some very important things. **I have a terrible tendency to become combative when faced with differing views and opinions.** For that I'm very sorry, and I am going to take a back seat in this conversation because I think my involvement is counter productive. Sarah is going to handle things from here. Please know that behind my rough exterior is someone who greatly appreciates the hard work you do.

Our concerns are nonetheless real though, and I don't think they are insurmountable. S [REDACTED] is going to clear things up when she meets with you, and she is making great progress in talking directly to a number of teachers. You do have a lot of great teachers at MCA.

Thanks for your understanding and willingness to address our concerns.

Joe

Good morning Joe,

You have absolutely nothing to apologize for. We are all human and flawed, especially me. I love to hear that you don't feel like the concerns are insurmountable! It is my mission on life to help children develop hearts and minds in accordance with their parent's goals. It has proven difficult, but I refuse to give up. Thank you for always being there for me to help make that happen. We probably see eye-to-eye more than either of us believe.

God bless,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

Dear Teachers,

Mrs. Baird and I had a very long discussion today, which lasted nearly 2 hours. It was an excellent meeting. Things have been cleared up and are much better now. She wanted me to let you all know that she loves the teachers at this school, and no one should feel otherwise. She is happy to have her children around such great people.

Going forward, there is no reason for additional meetings with the Baird parents. Please continue educating as you normally do. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to write me or see me. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 8:58 AM
Subject: [REDACTED]
To: Debbie Renda <drenda@masonacademy.com>

Hi Debbie,

I don't know if we can get this excused or not, but I wanted to let you know that [REDACTED] (grade) is away in [REDACTED] visiting a college that [REDACTED] is interested in. [REDACTED] will be back in school Monday.

Thanks!

S. [REDACTED] B. [REDACTED]

P.S. How is your foot?

On Feb 21, 2018, at 2:27 PM, Debbie Renda <drenda@masonacademy.com> wrote:

Mr. Hull,

Can this trip be excused?

Debbie Renda
Front Office Administrator
Mason Classical Academy

Approved.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Track
Date: April 28, 2018 at 12:57:04 PM EDT
To: [REDACTED], jbaird123@gmail.com

Hello Baird Family,

I just got the news of [REDACTED]'s accomplishments. Congratulations to [REDACTED] and you! If there's anything I or the school can do to continue supporting [REDACTED] efforts, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: [REDACTED]
Date: April 30, 2018 at 6:14:47 PM EDT
To: "Matthew Bucknell" <mbucknell@masonacademy.com>, "David Hull" <dhull@masonacademy.com>, "Kelly Lichter" <klichter@masonacademy.com>
Cc: "amacgowen" <amacgowen@masonacademy.com>, "MAURICIO RAMIREZ" <skyblueracing@gmail.com>, "Joe Baird" <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Subject: MCA and Homeschool Sports Question

Good evening,

I apologize for including all of you on this email, but I wasn't sure if this was a matter for the principal, the athletic director, or the Board. As you may have already heard, we have decided to withdraw from MCA and homeschool our children next year. After much prayer and discussion, we have decided that this will be the best fit for our family, at least for the coming year.

If possible, my children would very much like to continue to participate in the sports that MCA offers. Over the years, they have grown very close to the kids and families on the MCA teams and most especially to the coaches who have made them into the athletes they are today. They would very much hate to have to say goodbye. I know in the past that MCA has allowed homeschoolers to participate, so we are hopeful that this is still the case.

If you would kindly let us know as soon as possible, it would be much appreciated. My kids are all very anxious to hear the verdict. 😊

Many thanks,

S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 10:51 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Matthew Bucknell <mbucknell@masonacademy.com>; Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>; amacgowen <amacgowen@masonacademy.com>; MAURICIO RAMIREZ <skyblueracing@gmail.com>; Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: MCA and Homeschool Sports Question

Hello,

You may direct questions to me going forward. On the topic of home school students participating on MCA sports teams, it will be a discussion at the June board meeting.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: MCA and Homeschool Sports Question

Date: May 1, 2018 at 2:11:46 PM EDT

To: "David Hull" <dhull@masonacademy.com>

Cc: "Matthew Bucknell" <mbucknell@masonacademy.com>, "Kelly Lichter" <klichter@masonacademy.com>, "amacgowen" <amacgowen@masonacademy.com>, "MAURICIO RAMIREZ" <skyblueracing@gmail.com>, "Joe Baird" <jbaird123@gmail.com>

Hi David,

Thank you for your reply.

Here are a couple of links I

found https://www.fhsaa.org/sites/default/files/orig_uploads/eligibility_compliance/forms/procedures_to_register_non-traditional_students.pdf and <https://www.fhsaa.org/news/2017/0518-0> from the Florida High School Athletic Association that may be helpful. If I am understanding it correctly, this issue has already been addressed. It appears that homeschoolers (as of 2017) must be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities at charter schools. I'll admit I'm no expert in the law, so perhaps my understanding is inaccurate. But my kids are all very hopeful! 😊

Thanks again,

S [REDACTED]

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 3:01 PM
To: Shawn Arnold <sarnold@arnoldlawfirmllc.com>
Subject: Fwd: MCA and Homeschool Sports Question

Hello Shawn,

What would your reply be to this?

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: Shawn Arnold <sarnold@arnoldlawfirmllc.com>
Subject: RE: MCA and Homeschool Sports Question
Date: May 1, 2018 at 3:11:45 PM EDT
To: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Cc: Katie Sevier <ksevier@arnoldlawfirmllc.com>

This form says supports what I am saying:

V. Home Education Students –

These student must be registered with the Home Education Office of the school district (County) in which they reside. As per s. 1006.15(3)(c), Florida Statutes, these students are eligible to participate at:

- The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies (i.e. zoned school); or
- The public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the “Controlled Open Enrollment” provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student (i.e. choice of school without needing a reason or waiver, provided a seat would be available);
- or • A Home Education Cooperative;
- or • Any private school.

There has to be an open seat at the school. There isn't one. Moreover, they did not choose to attend your school during the open enrollment period, as I understand. Regardless, charter schools are not allowed to have more than their CO capacity as set forth in their charter contract for purposes of counts eligible athletes. It would be illegal for Mason to put this child in competition, period.

BTW . . . I am an expert in the law . . . that is why I have a certification!

It appears S [REDACTED] is nice and wants the best for her child. I get it. However, Mason would be fielding an illegal player. I cannot advise you to do that. I am certain the District would concur, as would FHSAA. Perhaps you can direct her to call them. Make sure she tells them that Mason is at its capacity and does not have an open seat.

Thanks--

Shawn A. Arnold, Esq.
Florida Board Certified Education Law
& Criminal Trial Lawyer
Licensed in Florida and Georgia
6279 Dupont Station Court
Jacksonville, FL 32217
(904) 731-3800

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On May 24, 2018, at 12:02 PM, <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi David,

I was just looking at the agenda for the Board meeting this Tuesday and I noticed that the issue of participation in MCA sports for home schoolers is not listed. I know you mentioned that you would discuss this at the June meeting, but there is very little on the agenda for this upcoming meeting so I was wondering if there is a reason it can't be added to this one.

Thanks!

S[REDACTED] B[REDACTED]

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 12:14 PM, David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com> wrote:
Hello Mrs. B[REDACTED],

The reason it is not on the board agenda is because we have discussed with our attorney, and it has been firmly established that home school students may participate in sports at their zoned school, but not at Mason Classical Academy. MCA will not have home school students participate in its sports program. The documentation you sent prior does not pertain to our status.

I have bcc'd our attorney on this email in case he would like to participate in this discussion.

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Date: May 24, 2018 at 1:30:44 PM EDT
To: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Cc: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Re: Tuesday MCA Board Meeting

Mr. Hull,

Could you clarify something? Is there a law prohibiting home schoolers from participating in sports at MCA? If so, could you direct me to this law?

Thanks,

Joe

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 2:52 PM, Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com> wrote:
Mr. Baird,

I am the MCA Compliance Officer. One of my responsibilities is to answer questions like yours. I would like to help navigate us through this question by starting from the beginning:

1. What gives you the impression that Charter schools must take on Home School students onto their sports teams? What statute, rule or other requirement requires that? Please provide the link and exact language you believe requires it.
2. If it is an extract from this [document](#), I found the following words in [blue](#) that you may be referencing. You will note that it only applies to public schools operated by the district. MCA is not operated by the district. It is operated by the MCA Board.

V. Home Education Students –

These student must be registered with the Home Education Office of the school district (County) in which they reside. As per s. 1006.15(3)(c), Florida Statutes, these students are eligible to participate at:

- The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies (i.e. zoned school); or
- The public school, [operated by the school district](#), the student could choose to attend according to the "Controlled Open Enrollment" provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student (i.e. choice of school without needing a reason or waiver, provided a seat would be available);
- or • A Home Education Cooperative;
- or • Any private school.

I hope this answers your question.

Chuck Marshall
[Mason Classical Academy](#)

From: Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 2:56 PM
To: Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com>
Cc: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>; David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Re: Tuesday MCA Board Meeting

Mr. Marshall,

You didn't answer my question. I simply would like to know if we are legally forbidden from participating in sports at MCA or if this is a policy of MCA to ban homeschoolers.

Thanks,

Joe

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 3:12 PM, Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com> wrote:
I have not found any rule or statute that allows Home schoolers to join a Charter School sports teams. That is why I asked you to provide your rationale on how Homeschool students can be allowed to join a Charter school sports team.

Chuck Marshall
[Mason Classical Academy](#)

From: Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 3:18 PM
To: Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com>
Cc: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>; David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Re: Tuesday MCA Board Meeting

Again, you didn't answer my question.

If home schoolers are not permitted to participate in sports at MCA, I would like to know why not. I can only think of 2 reasons:

1. It is illegal for home schoolers to attend
2. MCA has a policy banning home schoolers

Which of those two reasons is it?

Joe

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 3:30 PM, Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com> wrote:
I have found no Florida High School Athletic Association rule that allows Homeschool students to participate in Charter School sports teams.

You have not presented a Florida High School Athletic Association rule that allows Homeschool students to participate in Charter School sports teams.

If such a rule exists, it would also have to say that Charter schools "must" allow home school students to participate in their sports program. Since there are thousands of home school students, Charter schools would have to leave the Florida High School Athletic Association, if very many applied.

Now, for us to proceed, you might want to provide why you think Homeschool students are "allowed" to participate in Charter School sports teams.

Chuck Marshall
Mason Classical Academy

From: Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Chuck Marshall <cmarshall@masonacademy.com>
Cc: S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]; David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>; Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Re: Tuesday MCA Board Meeting

Mr. Marshall,

It's a simple question really, and as the compliance officer I know you understand this.

Is there a policy at MCA forbidding homeschoolers from participating in sports?

Thanks,

Joe

From: [REDACTED]
Date: August 7, 2018 at 2:16:32 PM EDT
To: "Joe Whitehead" <jwhitehead@masonacademy.com>, "Annaleah Miravalle" <amiravalle@masonacademy.com>, "Gena Smith" <gsmith@masonacademy.com>, <fsmith@masonacademy.com>, "Fedor Steer" <fsteer@masonacademy.com>, "Chuck Marshall" <cmarshall@masonacademy.com>, <tkinnick@masonacademy.com>, "Matthew Bucknell" <mbucknell@masonacademy.com>, "Debbie Renda" <drenda@masonacademy.com>, "Eliane Smith" <esmith@masonacademy.com>, "John DeMasi" <jdemasi@masonacademy.com>, "John Hinkle" <jhinkle@masonacademy.com>, <ccarlisi@masonacademy.com>, "John Schmitt" <jschmitt@masonacademy.com>, <kwaltan@masonacademy.com>, "Robert Rappaport" <rrappaport@masonacademy.com>, <cgoodman@masonacademy.com>, <ldionne@masonacademy.com>, <eladewski@masonacademy.com>, "April Rutherford" <arutherford@masonacademy.com>, <lpilarski@masonacademy.com>, <tmoran@masonacademy.com>, "amacgowen" <amacgowen@masonacademy.com>, <rtompkins@masonacademy.com>, <mmistretta@masonacademy.com>, "Sarah Bucknell" <sbucknell@masonacademy.com>, <dmassett@masonacademy.com>, "Christopher Rand" <crand@masonacademy.com>

Cc: [REDACTED], <jbaird123@gmail.com>, <hullfamily96@gmail.com>, "David Hull"
<dhull@masonacademy.com>, "Kelly Lichter" <klichter@masonacademy.com>, <lmiller@masonacademy.com>,
<jlongenecker@masonacademy.com>
Subject: [REDACTED] Rumors

Good afternoon,

As many of you probably know, my husband, Joe Baird, served on the Board of Directors of MCA a couple of years ago as Treasurer. While on the Board, he came across some alarming practices at the school regarding financial mismanagement and breach of Sunshine Law which he has since reported to the State of Florida Education Department and to the Collier County School Board. The matter has been taken very seriously by both departments and is currently under investigation.

What you may not know (but I am certain will not come as a surprise to any of you) is that once [REDACTED] decided to withdraw mid-year last year, we were approached by many former families and even some teachers who all shared eye-opening stories about the maltreatment of students, parents, and teachers at the school and the subsequent dismissal of their concerns by the current Board. Strangely, most were (and still are) afraid to come forward publicly, fearing retaliation. I don't think any of these good people are lying. And having had some experiences of our own, their experiences resemble ours in many ways.

Joe and I believe the truth must be told and we are not afraid to be the ones to tell it. There are several other parents and former teachers who feel as strongly, and so I am certain you will be hearing much in the near future. I want you all to know that having been educated classically ourselves and having always educated our children in that tradition, we love MCA. We do what we do only in an effort to restore a healthy learning environment and true classical education inspired by Hilldale College to the school.

As expected, the Hull family is not happy with our decision to come forward and, as indicated by the email chain below is threatening retaliation of some sort against [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has always been honest with us (a virtue instilled in [REDACTED] by several of you on this list – thank you for that!) and, although far from perfect, we can think of nothing [REDACTED] has done that deserves slandering [REDACTED] name in this way. If any of you know of any rumors going around that we are not aware of or what David and Sabine Hull are alluding to, would you be so kind as to call either me [REDACTED], my husband 239-450-6705, or [REDACTED] to shed some light on this?

I do not have all the emails for all the teachers at MCA, but perhaps you would pass this around to others not included on the list if you see fit.

Many thanks for your understanding,

S [REDACTED] B [REDACTED]

From: David Hull <dhull@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Rumors
Date: August 7, 2018 at 6:34:30 PM EDT
To: "Terry, Roy" <TerryRo@collierschools.com>
Cc: "Patton, Kamela" <patton@collierschools.com>, Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>

Dear Mr. Terry,

As I have always said to you in the past and continue say now, you, Dr. Patton, other school board members, parents, teachers, and anyone else who can pass our Fast Pass security system are more than welcome to come to MCA for visits, announced or unannounced, at any time. Our teachers love when people observe their classrooms and only wish more did so. MCA is completely open to you, as are our finances and my office door. If you feel the need to meet with me or any of my team to discuss and investigate things, just say the word! In fact, my wife makes a mean Wiener Schnitzel and would love for you to come over for dinner and get to know her better!

Best regards,
David Hull, Principal
Mason Classical Academy

From: "Hammerschlag, Annika" <Annika.Hammerschlag@naplesnews.com>
Date: September 9, 2018 at 3:29:56 PM EDT
To: "dhull@masonacademy.com" <dhull@masonacademy.com>, Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>
Subject: Naples Daily News article - request for comment

Hi David and Kelly,

Hope all is well. As I'm sure you're aware, Joe Baird has filed a complaint (see attached) with the FDOE alleging a series of wrongful practices. Please let me know if you'd like to comment on any of these allegations. I'd be happy to sit down with you this week at your convenience or schedule a phone a call.

Thanks,
Annika Hammerschlag
Education Reporter