

From: Joe Baird <jbaird123@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2016 12:51 PM
To: Nick Lichter; Kelly Lichter
Subject: Final parting thoughts
Attachments: Example 3.pdf; Example 4.pdf; Example 5.pdf; Example 6.pdf; Example 7.pdf; Davids Expense Report.pdf; Example 2.pdf

Nick, Kelly,

Please forgive me for this long email. Just remember that it took me much longer to write this than it will take you to read it. 📧🔔

I hope you don't mind if I send you a few more parting thoughts. With everything that has happened over the past few days, I have not necessarily been able to gather all of my thoughts and articulate them as clearly as I would like at the time conversations were happening. Often relevant information comes to light after further reflection, and that is the situation I am in now. I don't intend to continue emailing you with information – my hope is that this will be my last email on the matter. I want this to die so we can all move on. I will leave this alone after this email.

The two points I want to make in this email are:

1. David Hull appears to have a personal problem with trusting others, and this inability to trust his friends will continue to cause problems with the board in the future.
2. David's response to my request for information was handled in a passive aggressive manner which gave the appearance of cooperation while at the same time continuing to frustrate my investigation. This pattern of behavior will also continue to cause problems with any board that he has to deal with in the future.

You both already know that my reason for joining the board was to protect the school. I never said this to anyone else, but the primary way in which I intended to protect the school was to protect David's job. I knew that his job was in danger based on the political scene over the past few months, and I was very concerned that if the board took the wrong path he would lose his job and the school would be lost. In fact, I was trying to find a way to bring up his recent contract renewal in a board meeting to see if there was a way that I could reopen the discussion so we could renew his contract for 5 years instead of only 2. I wanted to do this to give him the security and peace of mind he needs to be able to relax and think about his family instead of constantly worrying about his job security. Unfortunately, that is no longer a possibility.

I assumed that David was aware of my intentions and my regard for him as principal. I assumed that he trusted me as I trust him. I think David stopped trusting me shortly after I was elected to the board. His attitude toward me quickly changed after my election and I honestly have no idea why. This makes me wonder if David Hull cannot trust me to have his back, whom will he trust? I don't believe he will trust anyone – except perhaps people whose actions he feels he has a significant influence over, which removes trust from the equation. Maybe I'm playing too much of a psychologist here,

so instead of speculating on whether David has a problem trusting people, perhaps it is better to just focus on my original question: if he doesn't trust me, whom will he trust? I hope that doesn't sound arrogant. I just meant to point out that I have been his friend for a long time. I have done nothing but show complete support for him. We have spent many days at the beach together and at each other's homes. Our children play together. Two board meetings was all it took for him to turn against me. The reason for turning against me was a list of mildly irritating questions I sent to Susan. I don't know how it is possible to go from being a close family friend to an enemy overnight because of that, but that is exactly what David has done. I may have challenged him and called him out for a few things, but that was my job and he should understand that. I truly don't understand how he can be willing to throw away 2 years of a solid friendship over something so ridiculously trivial. Business is a team sport, and David has trouble trusting his teammates.

Now I want to talk about his response to my requests for information.

I am sure that David will say he provided me with everything I asked for and gave me his full cooperation. Please review the attached .pdf files which show some of the information he sent to me. The scanning job is sloppy and much important information is obscured from view. When I saw the way this information was presented to me, I was frustrated because I realized that I would have to go yet again to Susan and ask her to re-do some of the work. This would have only re-ignited the fire and made the situation worse. I also realized that I was going to have to go through this ridiculous exercise every month. This was a major contributing factor in my resignation.

I need to point out that MCA is funded by taxpayer dollars and that MCA has many enemies who will stop at nothing to destroy it (you didn't really need me to point that out, but it bears repeating). Consequently, MCA's financial records will be subject to a much greater level of scrutiny than most organizations. Some may consider my questions "minutiae", frivolous, picky, etc. But you both know as well as I do that our enemies don't care about the truth and that they will use anything they can to shut our school down. With that in mind, I feel it is very important that our financial records be subjected to rigorous internal scrutiny to ensure that they will withstand the assaults of those who would destroy the school. Do you think that our enemies would hesitate to use this "minutiae" against us if they can find a way?

The files I have attached are examples of information being obscured from view by overlaying a receipt on top of a report or stacking receipts on top of each other. See below for an explanation of the problem with each.

- "David's Expense Report.pdf" is an expense report offered as supporting detail for a \$110 check that David wrote to himself. It's not a large amount, but because he is the principal this transaction warrants a little extra scrutiny. The report that Susan provided obscures the following information:
 - The name of the person filing the report.
 - Receipts for the two \$25 line items (there is no date or dollar amount displayed).
- "Example 2.pdf" shows a stack of receipts, and I can only see the first one. What are the other receipts for?
- "Example 3.pdf" contains a receipt from Lowes for \$56, but there is another Amazon receipt behind it for \$221 which I cannot see. The Amazon receipt does not show what the purchase is for, and it does not show the shipping address. This purchase could be for anything and it could have been shipped anywhere.
- "Example 4.pdf" is just a mess. There are 5 receipts on top of an invoice of some kind which is obscured by the 5 receipts on top of it. I can't make any sense of this.
- "Example 5.pdf" obscures the name of the person that the expense report is for.

- “Example 6.pdf” is not so bad, but the receipt does obscure a large portion of the expense report. This one might pass an audit, but it is still not clear.
- “Example 7.pdf” contains 2 receipts for Toys ‘R Us, but the name of the person on the expense report is obscured as is the description which explains the business purpose.

I hope that the information I gave you above sheds some light on the details of what has been happening between me and David. I don’t have the energy to fight this battle month after month.

In any case, I have said my piece now, and I intend to move on. I won’t send you any further emails on this subject. If you have questions or want to discuss any of this, by all means you can call me.

Sincerely,

Joe