

Zinser, Leanne

From: M [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 9:37 AM
To: bob@representativebobrommel.com <bob@representativebobrommel.com>
Subject: Mason Classical Academy

Bob:

You and I had a brief conversation prior to the mediation between the Collier County School Board District and Mason Classical Academy. Well, the mediation is over, and I can't be more disappointed in the outcome.

It appears the state of Florida representatives in Tallahassee believe "change" can occur by simply adding a special person on the Board of Directors at MCA.

Included in this e-mail are two examples of why I was explaining to you this strategy will not work.

The first (attachment) is a cut from a recording of a call/video conference among a limited number of MCA parents....with Kelly Lichter presiding. Kelly explains how there is a group of parents who are "undermining" the school and lays blame for the school's difficulty on the feet of those parents. She does only to explain her exasperation as to why these parents continue to have their children educated at MCA. On the heels of the mediation (August 1st and 2nd), this message of divisiveness is most troubling. If the intention for the outcome of the mediation was for the MCA Board Leadership to behave more in line with the "8 Pillars of Virtue" it purports to live by....well, this is a most unfortunate action by Ms. Lichter. So, this is the first example of how behaviors have NOT changed. She CLEARLY cannot separate the curriculum delivered by the teachers....versus the behaviors and decision-making of the 3 board members.

The second (URL Link Below) is a you tube video of a MCA Board of Directors meeting held on August 8th. It's rather lengthy, but I encourage you to listen/watch the entire video. If the intention of the mediation outcome was for MCA and Hillsdale College to mend fences and work together...well...clearly this is not the result...as you can determine for yourself. If the intention of the mediation outcome was for the MCA BOD to "come around" and behave in a civil manner...mending fences with all stakeholders (the Collier County School District; founding families; parents; the Landlord; the state of Florida taxpayer; etc...) you can interpret for yourself why this is not happening. If they are supposed to add a new board member agreed upon in mediation, why didn't they do so...or why wasn't that even discussed at this board meeting...where other board candidates were discussed? How is one person, one vote, supposed to overcome the 4 vote alliance of this Board?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vBANEnIQgc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3Z0xGOUUMOKEgxd0zqTAbjmPtoFwkhHO_kw7HgrOm0Jton892p4nzxke8c



[MCA Board Meeting 08 08 2019](#)

MCA Board Meeting 08 08 2019

www.youtube.com

Time will tell, Bob, but the residents of Collier County and the Florida tax payers...particularly those who believe strongly in School Choice and Charter Schools...were dealt a disservice, in my opinion, by emboldening and empowering these board members to continue their intimidation tactics, continue to thumb their noses at their "sponsor" (the Collier County School District), continue to demonize their original education partner (Hillsdale), continue to WASTE tax payer dollars on legal fees, continue to squander financial resources by poor fiscal decisions and continue to abuse the charter school rules as they exist today.

Please understand, this is NOT about closing MCA...this is about reconstituting the Board of Directors....even if it means terminating the contract for MCA...and passing the school along to another newly approved...HILLSDALE COLLEGE AFFILIATED...charter school. This is a pathway to accomplish EVERYONE's objectives. This needs to be the communicated narrative to the entire universe. This notion of anyone trying to "close the school" is utter nonsense. But, given the current laws in Florida, the current MCA Board is empowered to do ANYTHING they want...ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE A HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOL. This is a perfect argument for the opposition of charter schools. Just wait until those who fight against charter schools get ahold of this entire scenario. This Charter School "pushes out" low performing students (a 20% student attrition rate)...this Charter School wastes tens of thousands of Florida Tax Payer dollars on attorneys fees in its efforts to skirt Florida laws...this Charter School wastes hundreds of thousands of Florida tax payer dollars by paying off its lowest interest loans and retaining its highest interest loans....this Charter School squanders opportunity to own its campus and adjacent land free and clear, by upsetting and ostracizing the BENEVOLENT landlord...the State of Florida Department of Education supported them and emboldened them by not only allowing them to get away with it historically, but also by energizing them to continue their behaviors...the State of Florida Department of Education intervened by not allowing the Collier County School District to do their duty for the good of the citizens of Collier County.

My apologies if this e-mail is a bit assertive, but I simply ask you to understand we've been dealing with this nonsense for over 5 years. Just as we thought we could see light at the end of the tunnel, the state of Florida stepped in and crushed any hope for real improvement...real change...at MCA. This is truly disheartening.

Respectfully,

M M