



Middleton School District

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Dr. Josh J. Middleton, Superintendent Andy Horning, Assistant Superintendent

Good Morning MSD Staff, Parents, and Patrons,

Concerns have been brought forth by a number of staff, parents and patrons regarding recent events at our School Board Meetings. The chief issue expressed is the lack of information provided by the district office that has led to speculation and false assumptions. As many of you know, we cannot share information related to personnel matters, but we understand the frustration that is taking place and want to share an accurate update on what is public knowledge.

- There is an investigation going on that has been approved by the MSD School Board for an unbiased and outside investigator to look into Dr. Merrill's February 11, 2019 public allegations of him being bullied and harassed by district level administration. The purpose of any investigation is to gather facts from all sides with due process, and we are hopeful that a resolution to these concerns along with recommendations for better policies, practices and processes will be the end result. The following motion passed at Monday's board meeting on March 11, 2019.
 - **Resolution #02142019.v2** The Middleton School District Board would appoint an investigator as an independent investigator to look into the allegations of harassment and bullying made at the recent Board meeting held on Monday, February 11, 2019, against the District administration, to determine whether or not there is any basis to conclude that any wrongdoing by any staff or person affiliated with the District, violated the rights of any individual or violated any board policy or Idaho law, and to make suggestions of how to resolve any identified issues so that these type of issues do not arise in the future. That the independent investigator be retained through the District's legal counsel to ensure that the investigator is not receiving direction from the Board or the administration.

That the effective date for the retention of the investigator be February 14, 2019.

- It has also come to the attention of the district that some of the names of the individuals being interviewed were released at Monday's board meeting. This was a simple accident made by our Board Clerk when preparing papers for the meeting. This has been a disappointing and accidental event, and she wants to share her sincerest apologies to those affected.
- Finally, we are heavy into the summative evaluations of all of our certified and classified staff and planning for next year. We are very pleased with all the great things going on in our schools and continue to support our entire administrative team. Without their leadership, we would not have made such amazing gains in student achievement.

The Middleton School District is confident that we will make it through these tough times and continue to meet our daily goal of Every Student Learning Every Day. Next week we are being visited by Advanc-Ed, the body that evaluates our district for K-12 accreditation. We look forward to sharing the great things going on in our classrooms. Spring is here, graduation is right around the corner, and we have already started preparing for next year.

Here's to a great finish in 2019.

Dr. Josh Middleton
Superintendent
Middleton School District

Middleton Schools Every Child Learning Every Day