

May 21, 2018

Mr. Regano and Mr. Bolden,

I am writing to you today to first apologize for my incredibly poor lapse in judgment in regards to Person A. This was the worst mistake of my life. When she contacted me on Facebook, it started out innocently, but then as things escalated, I did not make the correct choice to stop it. This is something that I am currently dealing with in my personal life, and will be for the foreseeable future. With that being said, I would never jeopardize my career by doing what Person A has alleged. I know that the messages paint a different picture, but I want you to know that I have contacted Facebook to try and retrieve all messages from the time in question, but they unfortunately cannot be obtained. To say that I regret having any contact with this person would be an understatement.

Person A has claimed that the plan was for me to let her into the building, but then later said that another teacher let her in the building. You stated at the last meeting that this teacher was interviewed and has no recollection of this taking place. Also, she alleges that we were to meet during lunch, but as I stated prior, I eat lunch with my colleagues. During the interviews with my colleagues, it was insinuated that I tried to coerce them into saying that we are together during this time. I did confirm with both Mark and Gerry that we eat lunch together every day and that they are in and out of the office in the periods that follow, specifically 5ab and 6. Never at any time did I admit that anything happened, quite the opposite. I told them that I had a conversation with a former Solon student on messenger and that I was now being accused of something taking place in my office. For me, it was a confirmation that we are together during this time, not an admission of any wrongdoing. Also during the alleged time, I had a student teacher doing a pre-student teaching fieldwork assignment with me. She would be with me one or two days a week from 8:45 am - 2:00 pm to become acclimated to the program where she would be doing her student teaching in the Spring. The days of the week varied, as they had to fit into her school and work schedules. The band room and office are filled with students and staff throughout the day, and it would be impossible for the alleged activity to have taken place.

I understand that the inappropriate picture and video on the computer are my responsibility. Please understand that the picture was totally unintentional, as I would never purposefully put that on a school laptop. As for the video, I still have no idea where it came from or how it was transferred onto my computer.

Student B has accused me of inappropriate behavior during school. This accusation breaks my heart due to the fact that my main focus is and has always been on creating a safe environment for learning. Had I known that she felt uncomfortable at all, I would have done everything in my power to correct any misperceptions that were taking place. I have never made inappropriate contact with any student. That is not who I am as a person or an educator. I have given everything I have to the Solon music program, and there is no way I would ever do what I am being accused of.

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If given the opportunity to continue to work in Solon, I will implement many different precautions to ensure that there is never another chance of being accused of anything. In regards to band officers making copies, I will never allow only one student at a time in the office or band room. I will always require a witness, whether it be another student or staff member, to confirm appropriate behavior. I will also advise my colleagues to do the same. I am willing to put a video camera in the back part of the office and give up access to a school issued computer. I will do whatever it takes to regain your trust as an educator.

As you can see by my otherwise flawless time in Solon, my only desire is to help students have a love of learning and music. My passion for helping a group of students create an amazing performance is what I live to do. I have worked my entire life building my reputation as an accomplished educator, and to see it being taken away is devastating. I am asking for an opportunity to meet with you so that we can discuss what I would need to do in order to have a second chance. Thank you for your consideration.



Ed Kline