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SHANNON WILLIAMS
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Velma-Alma Public School

RAYMOND RICE
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February 16, 2022

The district has learned that one of its board members, Andy McGuire, made a Tik Tok video this summer commenting on gender. Mr. McGuire was not speaking on behalf of the district nor the board of education. Any comments made were his personal views and do not reflect nor state the district's or board of education's views on these matters. The district does all it can to provide a safe learning environment for all students, to follow all applicable laws and will continue to do so in the future.

I do not condone Mr. McGuire's comments and have stated that they are incredibly inappropriate. School board members are elected officials. They are not school employees and are not under the authority of the school superintendent or other board members. Unless an elected official submits a resignation, Oklahoma law does not currently allow the removal of public officials from elected offices. Oklahoma law does allow public offices to become vacant if any of the events listed in statute occur.

Oklahoma Statute Citationized
Title 51. Officers
Chapter 1- General Provisions
Section 8- Office vacant, when

Every office shall become vacant on the happening of any one of the following events before the expiration of the term of such office:

First. The death of the incumbent or his resignation.

Second. His removal from office or failure to qualify as required by law.

Third. Whenever any final judgment shall be obtained against him for a breach of his official bond.

Fourth. Ceasing to be a resident of the state, county, township, city or town, or of any district thereof, in which the duties of his office are to be exercised or for which he may have been elected or appointed.

Fifth. Conviction in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction of any felony or any offense involving a violation of his official oath; provided, that no conviction, as a cause of vacation of office, shall be deemed complete so long as an appeal may be pending, or until final judgment is rendered thereon.

Sixth. Upon entering of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction for any felony or any offense involving a violation of his official oath.

The fact by reason whereof the vacancy arises shall be determined by the authority authorized to fill such vacancy.

On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, I received a request from a stakeholder to speak to the Velma-Alma Board of Education at the next regular scheduled meeting on February. 14, 2022. The request was not received one (1) week prior to the meeting date as required by board policy. However, per board policy the board of education, at its discretion, waived the early notice requirement to allow the individual to speak at the February 14, 2022 board meeting.

On Monday, February 14, 2022 during a legal review of the agenda it was determined by legal counsel that due to a timing issue with posting the agenda and receipt of the request to speak that the public participation could not be allowed.

The person making the request to speak to the board was offered a special board meeting to speak to the board of education that would have been held on Wednesday February 16, 2022. The aforementioned stakeholder declined this offer.

The administration and the Board of Education of Velma-Alma Public Schools has, and will always hold the safety and well-being of our students as our utmost responsibility and priority. The continued mission of Velma-Alma Public Schools today, and moving forward is to afford EVERY student a school environment in which they feel protected and valued.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Rice', with a stylized, cursive script.

Raymond Rice
Superintendent
Velma-Alma Public Schools