

Bullying of Reporters and Community Partners Evidence

- **March 2, 2022** On a conference call with Memorial SBLT and Ellie, Tim shared that he bullied the City of Madison Police Department's Public Information Officer (PIO), Stephanie Fryer. He told SBLT staff and Ellie *"I became unglued, and really railed into her, I mean full on yelling. She's an idiot. She clearly doesn't know what she's doing."* Then proceeded to laugh.
 - Witnesses: Memorial Principal Matt Hendrickson and AP Suzanne Blackamore
- **April 25, 2022** During a Zoom meeting with Ellie and Amy, Tim describes local NBC 15 journalist Elizabeth Wadas as: *"Quickly becoming the sleaziest journalist in Madison...What a pig of a journalist."*
- **July 28, 2022** [Safety & Student Wellness Ad Hoc Committee](#): *"The news media can get a story wrong all day long. All they need to do is go back and change that story. I monitor the news media, it's my job, I see that happen all the time. Sometimes stories are updated four, five times in a single day and there are no consequences...When people receive information from the school district, the expectation is that it's going to be accurate and we got it right, because we do not have the luxury of going back and correcting it."*
- **Aug. 4, 2022** Department Retreat: [Recording](#) on aggressive news media: *"We're on an island as a school district, facing things that nobody else faced. We have a very aggressive and nasty news media...We deal with issue management and media relations more than any other school district, at least in this state, and even outside of Wisconsin. What is news here, is not news anywhere else. There was a point where we had really good stories, and we would pitch them to every news reporter in town, and they were making choices not to report. In a conversation with Dr. Jenkins, I said 'screw it.'"*
- **Aug. 24, 2022** Tim tells Amy K. *"I fucking hate Beth Beyer,"* speaking of the Wisconsin State Journal K-12 education journalist.
- **Aug. 30, 2022** Tim tells a female journalist [she is not allowed to go inside of schools](#) on the First Day of School, claiming it's a blanket rule for all reporters. However on the first day, a male journalist from the Capital Times Newspaper and a photographer were [granted full access](#) to interview and photograph students in the classroom. The male journalist said he was never told by Tim he wouldn't be allowed inside classrooms.
- **Sept. 15, 2022** NBC-15 publishes an article entitled ["Open Records Roadblock: MMSD takes over 6 months to reply to NBC15 Investigates open records request,"](#) detailing the consistent delay in receiving a request they must legally fulfill. While staff shortages may play a role, it is still illegal to not reply to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
 - CapTimes journalist retweets the article on Twitter adding *"I've had much the same experience as what's detailed in this article from NBC-15. With one four-month-old request, the district received my payment in June for what they estimated was two hours of work...still haven't gotten the records: Covering the district closely, I know there are significant budgetary and staff time trade-offs right now to focusing on open records, so I've tried to be understanding. But it's frustrating and takes away from the timeliness with which the public can understand issues. As with [this story](#), which was timely when*

requested in January, and not at all when received in August (just a week under seven months to fulfill)."

- **Oct. 6, 2022** During a department meeting Tim says:
 - *"I'm not afraid to call the Wisconsin State Journal a racist organization, and it's not so much the reporters, it's their editors...it was the most disgusting conversation I've ever had, and that's the Wisconsin State Journal."*
 - *"The thing people don't understand is, if you're an education beat reporter, you need us. We have leverage. We don't need them."*
 - Tim told the entire communications department about a journalist, who is a woman of color, that there is "no way" he would respond to her 3 interview requests because he "doesn't like her."
 - Tim asks the entire communications department to go around the room and say all the negative interactions they have had with former K-12 education journalist Beth Beyer. Ellie had only had positive experiences working with Beth Beyer, and attempted to defend her when Tim said:
 - *"This [Beth Beyers] is a horrible human being. I mean, you can judge her as you will, but I've had experiences with her...I basically told her editors we want her removed, I never want to work with her ever again. The bosses said we need to meet and mend our relationship, well, to me that was enough. I'm like, 'screw her.' And uh, that's why Beth Beyers is gone, because we just weren't working with her."*
 - *"Unfortunately the new person, also a woman, her replacement, isn't any better. They have something out for our school district."*