



# Draper Notes

April 14, 2015

## **Superintendent Continues to Drive District Vehicle for Personal Business**

The superintendent continues to drive the 2014 Ford Explorer, earlier approved for purchase with taxpayer funds by the school board, to conduct personal business. This is the same vehicle that led to the paid suspension of the district finance director, Marcia Saulo, after she advised the superintendent that her personal use of the vehicle was a taxable benefit. The letter from Ms. Saulo's attorney was posted on the [www.drapernotes.org](http://www.drapernotes.org) website dated February 20, 2015.

In an act that can only be characterized as pure arrogance, the superintendent was doing her personal shopping at Wal-Mart during the early evening of April 13, 2015, using the same district vehicle. It was obvious she was not using the vehicle for business purposes. This was noticed by several local shoppers who did not have the use of a new vehicle that is purchased, fueled, and maintained at taxpayer expense. Wal-Mart is a rather public place in Arcadia, and our citizens are observant.

It appears that the superintendent feels that the DeSoto Taxpayers should provide this government vehicle for her personal use. Most of our taxpayers, however, probably feel that the money to fund this vehicle should be directed to the classroom for our students and teachers. Any elected official must exercise an abundance of caution so that cash strapped taxpayers do not conclude that other funds are not used wisely for direct student instruction.

The finance director has been on a paid suspension since January 30, 2015. The superintendent indicates that the incident is under investigation. It should be noted that the superintendent's investigations are costly and take longer than most major criminal cases investigated by law enforcement. How much taxpayer money has been wasted on this investigation that could have been used in the classroom?

The superintendent's arrogance indicates clearly that she has forgotten that her employers are the voters and taxpayers of DeSoto County.