



Draper Notes

January 17, 2015

Matthew Kane Unanimously Approved by Board

With only one brief question, the school board unanimously approved the superintendent's recommendation of Matthew Kane as assistant principal at DeSoto County High School. The one question asked of the superintendent was, *Is everything clear on Mr. Kane?*

It appears that the board would want more information than a simple verbal assurance by the superintendent that, *Everything is clear*. How do you reconcile, *Everything is clear*, with the following written statements by Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth McArthur regarding Matthew Kane?

Petitioner proved that Respondent knowingly failed to report to appropriate authorities known allegations of misconduct by instructional personnel, which affected the health, safety or welfare of students, wrote Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth McArthur. The allegations were appropriately reported to him by several different sources over the span of three school years.

The violations constitute misconduct of office, McArthur added.

*Kane's violations did not support the charge of immorality, she ruled, but **it was a failure to perform duties prescribed by law and considered to be inefficiency, which supports the charge of incompetence.***

"Respondent's violations found above, based on the allegations and charges in the Complaint, provide just cause to terminate his employment during the annual contract term," McArthur wrote.

There is a check and balance between the superintendent and school board. Unfortunately, the members of the DeSoto School Board failed in its responsibility by rubberstamping this recommendation from the superintendent without exercising its oversight on personnel

recommendations. Each school board member was aware, or should have been aware, of the problems with Mr. Kane. Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth McArthur has certainly not changed her written opinion. The board was responsible for a thorough public discussion beyond, *Everything is clear*.