



# Draper Notes

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## Lee School's Superintendent Faces Investigation

By Dave Elias, Chief Political Reporter, NBC2

The head of Southwest Florida's largest school district is under investigation. Lee County Superintendent Dr. Nancy Graham faces allegations of waste, fraud and mismanagement.

The Florida Department of Education is calling on Graham's own school board to investigate the claims. The board has been given 30 days to get to the bottom of it.

Already a year and a half on the job, Graham is facing an investigation at the state's request. We obtained a letter from the Department of Education's Inspector General. It orders the school board to get to the bottom of whether Graham misspent money and lied about saving the district money.

Earlier this year, Graham was quoted as saying there are consequences if you fail to follow expectations. Those very words are ones Dr. Nancy Graham could be force to live by if there is evidence which shows she broke the law.

The State Education Inspector General says there are allegations that Graham used Title I funds without state approval. The letter addressed to board chair Cathleen Morgan states Graham embellished the savings outlined in her 2013 budget.

Former Lee County School District chief administrative officer Alberto Rodriguez -- once investigated himself and later cleared -- sent a seven-page letter to the state outlining claims Graham never saved the district the quarter of a million dollars she promised by eliminated three zone coordinators in the district.

"The board just took her word and went ahead and approved it," said Rodriguez.

"One of the things that really caught my attention immediately was the three zone coordinators. I said 'wait a minute, there was only one zone coordinator,'" said Rodriguez.

The district's 2013 organizational chart seems to support the claims made by Rodriguez. Under Graham's leadership, the position was eliminated.

"At the end of the day, when you look at how many administrators in the central district officer there were under Burke (former superintendent) and how many there are now -- there is a number of administrator positions that have been added to the district since we left," explained Rodriguez.

Neither Graham nor Morgan were able to discuss the allegations now that there is an official investigation.

Rodriguez said the district isn't saving the money Graham promised. The school board has 30 days to investigate the claims. The district will be required to turn their findings over to the state.

It will be up to the Department of Education to accept the findings or launch their own investigation.