



Draper Notes

February 2, 2015

What is happening in the Superintendent's Office?

It appears that the DeSoto Director of Finance has been placed on administrative leave subject to school board action on a recommendation for termination from employment as a result of insubordination to the superintendent.

The possible topic in dispute apparently relates to the district administrative use of public vehicles to transport certain administrators' to their homes and work. The following points appear to indicate the sequence of events regarding the district director of finance:

- The director of finance met with the superintendent on January 29, 2015, to discuss the possible inappropriate use of district vehicles by certain district administrators. The director of finance and superintendent did not agree on the course of action to take to address this problem.
- Before the director of finance arrived at work on the morning of January 30, 2015, the superintendent had the director's computer removed from her office by the director of technology. The director of technology then started reading the emails from this computer to ascertain if any communications regarding the use of district vehicles was sent to the Florida Department of Education or the Auditor General's Office by the director of finance.
- When the director of finance reported to work she was met by administrators designated by the superintendent who directed that she remove personal items from her office. She was then escorted by these administrators from the building. At that point she was placed on administrative leave pending a recommendation from the superintendent.
- School board members were notified on February 2, 2015, that the director of finance was being recommended for termination due to insubordination.

- Staff from the State Auditor General's office is questioning certain administrative staff members on the possible inappropriate use of district vehicles.

To recommend the termination of the director of finance at mid-year is a serious step by the superintendent. Hopefully, the school board will question this recommendation in an open public session. The public deserves to know the specific circumstances that led to this recommendation for termination. District funds and equipment belong to the citizens of DeSoto County, not to the superintendent and her select administrative staff to spend and use as they personally deem appropriate. If any of this is not true, then the superintendent should have been immediately forthcoming with the transparent truth instead of allowing rumors corrosive to employee morale and public trust to grow.

It appears that communication from the superintendent's office on critical matters is continuing to erode. Our students, teachers, staff, parents, and the community deserve better.