

frank.griffin@doe.k12.ga.us
state.superintendent@doe.k12.ga.us
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Superintendent Richard Woods and Board Member Frank Griffin, Jr.,

We are a group of Alexander II Elementary School parents writing to you today due to disturbing activity by the Bibb County Board of Education which at a minimum we believe may be a violation of the Board Code of Ethics (as mandated by [GA Code § 20-2-72 \(2024\)](#)¹).

[At a Feb. 20 Bibb County school board meeting, board members voted 6-2 to not renew contracts for Alexander II Magnet School Principal Angel Woodard and Vice Principal Dr. Meredith Byrd](#)². As we understand it, this was contrary to the recommendation of the Bibb Schools Superintendent Dan Sims. Alexander II is the best performing school in Bibb County.

We see the removal of both the principal and vice principal as highly destabilizing, especially considering how measurably successful the school has been under their leadership. We believe this is an extreme action that should only be justified by significant issues at the school. We are not aware of any issues that would justify such action, and that if there was such a significant issue that they would have been removed immediately rather than be allowed to finish the year out. As the state agency with oversight in this matter, we are asking that you launch an investigation into this matter, since we as parents are not privy to much of the information that would form such a decision.

Why are we here?

Mrs. Woodard, and Dr. Byrd (The administrators in question) are both widely supported by parents, staff, and kids. As parents we have seen them both go out of their way to produce a positive climate for our children. Those of us with 504s/IEP children have witnessed not only the two administrators go above and beyond what would be expected in most every case, but provide the best educational environment that we have seen our children experience in their lives thus far. They have taken every professional step, and given up countless hours of personal time in sacrifice to the education and development of our kids.

We are all aware that Alex II has won awards (Both State and National) and been recognised for its achievement several times since this administration took over. Since we parents regard the administration so highly, and all records we can find point to excellence on every level on their part, we began to ask questions. What we discovered was concerning, to say the least.

¹ <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-20/chapter-2/article-3/section-20-2-72/>

²

<https://maconmelody.com/parents-blindsided-after-school-board-votes-not-to-renew-contracts-for-alex-ii-principal-vice-principal/>

Financial conflict of interest

Note: We do not know if the following issue has anything related to the renewal of the contracts. We suspect the worst due to the lack of justifiable reasoning.

[According to GA Code § 50-14-3 \(2024\):](#)³

“No vote in executive session to ... settle litigation, claims, or administrative proceedings, shall be binding on an agency until a subsequent vote is taken in an open meeting where ... where **the parties and principal settlement terms are disclosed** before the vote;”

[On July 18th 2024 the Board unanimously voted to approve Settlement for Student JH](#)⁴. The [video recording of the meeting](#)⁵ ends abruptly before this vote is taken. There is nothing in the minutes or attachments that would disclose the parties and principal settlement terms.

We are aware that media outlets have been unsuccessfully attempting to get this information for several months now. There is also a lack of any information on this litigation in the public record at any court holding jurisdiction.

Due to the lack of justifiable reasons, combined with the lack of forwardness and transparency from the Board, has left us concerned that the decision to not renew the Alex II staff in such an unusual manner may have been related to this settlement.

Building on this concern, one of our members personally heard while getting community members to sign our petition that the effort was ultimately pointless since “ ‘he’ had threatened to take away funding if the board didn’t vote them (The Admins) out.” Since all of this seems so closely related, we fear that some unknown third party may have had undue influence on our local school board. While this is certainly hearsay, it is obviously very alarming.

Ethics violations

The [Board Code of Ethics as adopted on 12/04/2014](#)⁶ states that each member of the board will:

“Not undermine the authority of the Superintendent or his or her designee, or intrude into

³ <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-50/chapter-14/section-50-14-3/>

⁴

https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=4013&MID=118712&Tab=Minutes

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/live/t-Xz35DxicE>

⁶

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=4013&revid=PWdYlwsUplusTXyfyVrcYv9SA==&st=ethic&mt=Exact>

responsibilities that properly belong to the Superintendent, his or her designee, or school administration, including such functions as hiring, transferring or dismissing employees.”
“Render all decisions based on available facts and his or her independent judgment and refuse to surrender his or her judgment to individuals or special interest groups.”

“Make decisions in accordance with the interests of the school district as a whole and not any particular segment thereof.”

“Support the employment of persons best qualified to serve as employees of the school district and insist on regular and impartial evaluations of school district staff.”

From every source of information we can find, it appears that voting against the Superintendent in this matter clearly violated the board’s code of ethics. Compounding this with the financial issues we raised above, we strongly believe this decision was not in the best interest of the school district, especially considering how our school’s performance has improved under the current administration’s leadership.

We strongly urge an investigation into this matter based on these issues as quickly as possible. The information that would be made available as a result would alleviate the concerns of undue process or mismanagement of public funds and give peace of mind to parents and constituents of the district. Understandably, the most crucial pieces of the information surrounding this issue are not normally made available to the general public. Given that the administrators at Alex II are such a treasured part of our community and our children’s development, it is so important for an authority to investigate these matters further and to completion.

Signatures and Support

Please note our [petition](#)⁷, as of this email, has 513 signatures from parents of a school that has only about 500 students. Many of our families and staff have shared this because they are as genuinely concerned about the future of our school as we are. ***We implore you to not ignore this call to action.***

Sincerely,
The undersigned

s/Sabrina Hom/ Parent 404.661.6666 sabrina.hom@gmail.com	s/Stephanie Hatcher/ Parent 478.250.4950 stephanie.hatcher@protonmail.com	s/Jessica Vance/ Parent 478.318.1767 joonwoo1107@gmail.com
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⁷ <https://www.change.org/p/alexander-ii-admin-is-essential>

s/Joon Lee/ Parent 478.978.6134 sjl0402@gmail.com	s/Lakeeta Jones Seabrooks/ Parent 229-938-1417 Lakeetajones@gmail.com	s/Deondra Patterson/ Parent 478.550.3840 d.nekia016@yahoo.com
s/Rachel Huston/ Parent 912-441-6456 Rachel.heaven0784@gmail.com	s/Kerry Hatcher/ Parent 478.228.9909 Kerry@kerryhatcher.com	s/Rocio Garcia/ Parent 646.634.3416 Garcia.roccio33@yahoo.com
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