

Letter read by school board president, Patricia Eary, on October 12, 2015

I have a statement to read:

The Board of Education hired Dr. VanDuyn in 2014 and extended her contract for an additional year due to her highly effective rating on her June 2015 evaluation. Dr. VanDuyn has the full backing and support of the board to operate our school district. We are pleased with how far she has taken the district in just more than a year's time.

The Board is always willing to listen to constructive comments for the betterment of our students. Those who are needlessly spreading false rumors, untruths, inaccuracies and creating dissension among the staff need to evaluate their actions. This behavior is not helping our district to move forward. Every staff member should look at the facts instead of listening to those few who are trying to create problems. If you have questions about something you have heard, I suggest you contact Dr. VanDuyn to discuss your concerns.

There is a small circle of individuals employed by our district who, during past administrations, were not held accountable for their actions, allowed to do what they chose without consequence, and ran their areas with entitlement and for personal gain. These few individuals seem to be at the center of the negativity and unacceptance of Dr. VanDuyn. As she makes attempts to do her job of correcting the wrong doings and moving this district forward, her work is being met with discredit and sabotage.

The disrespectful behavior on the part of a few staff members in this district needs to cease immediately. Everyone needs to be focused on the betterment of the students. Every employee should be in the business of education children and not get caught up in the agenda of a small minority. If you do not think you can work for the current administration, you are free to seek employment elsewhere. Those who are trying to undermine the work of Dr. VanDuyn are not working in the best interest of our students.

The Board has concerns about the finances in the district. Until the financial review is done in November, we are trying to be very cautious in how money is spent. We have a Focus School. Our test scores have not significantly improved in the past several years whatsoever. Interventionists have proven to be an effective method to increase our students' success. The Board fully supports putting the Cognitive Coaches back in the classroom.

Frankly, as a board we are very disappointed in a small minority of the staff. The continual comments under the breath, sarcasm, name calling, and private meetings to make a plan to discredit Dr. VanDuyn need to stop immediately. We expect the entire staff to support Dr. VanDuyn both publicly and privately. Everyone in this district needs to work together so this district can move forward by leaps and bounds under the leadership of Dr. VanDuyn.