



At the request of Eastpointe Community Schools, the law firm Clark Hill, PLC, was hired to investigate accusations raised by Mr. Michael Railey, a special education teacher, against Superintendent Christina Gibson. These accusations were made during the public hearing on September 9, 2024. Mr. Railey's claims included:

1. Allegations that Superintendent Gibson had an inappropriate relationship with former athletic director Mr. Russell Ball.
2. Accusations that Superintendent Gibson is "racist, inept, corrupt," and runs the District as if it were "her own personal crime family."
3. A claim that Superintendent Gibson put the District at physical risk because of Mr. Ball's wife, who Mr. Railey described as mentally unstable and capable of violent actions against the District.
4. An accusation that Superintendent Gibson uses employee evaluations unfairly to discriminate against or remove people she dislikes.

The District immediately launched an investigation, thoroughly reviewing emails, personnel files, text messages, and interviewing multiple staff members. The investigation has now concluded, and it found that all of Mr. Railey's accusations were unfounded and patently false.

It's important to note that Mr. Railey initially refused to participate in the investigation. Even though the District arranged for union representation and a substitute to cover his classes, Mr. Railey refused to attend his first interview. He was offered and did attend a second meeting but refused to reveal any sources or provide any evidence to back up his claims.

During his interview, investigators asked Mr. Railey what specific support or evidence he had related to his claims about Superintendent Gibson's affair. He answered: "None." When asked about the affair allegations, Mr. Railey admitted he had no personal knowledge or concrete proof and described his knowledge as "hearsay"—what others had told him, without direct evidence. He had no emails, texts, or documents to support his accusations, and he never witnessed anything himself. He had nothing.

Mr. Railey stated that he never saw Mr. Ball's wife approach the school nor witnessed anything between Superintendent Gibson or Mr. Ball directly that would suggest an affair was taking place. Instead, Mr. Railey spoke to people who spoke to other people who claimed to have witnessed Mr. Ball's wife approaching a school building.

Mr. Railey also did not offer any direct evidence of racism or corruption in the District but instead described his disappointment in Superintendent Gibson and Mr. Ball's decision to terminate him from his role as the varsity basketball coach.

Superintendent Gibson denied all allegations and stated she has never had a relationship outside her marriage. She also clarified that the District's employee evaluations are used to help staff improve their performance, not as a tool for personal discrimination. Mr. Ball also denied having any personal relationship with Superintendent Gibson outside of their professional roles.

Finally, a different District staff member spoke with Mr. Railey shortly after he made his public comment on September 9th. The staff member spoke to the investigators and shared that Mr. Railey admitted that he was not sure whether his accusations were true and when asked why he would raise those accusations publicly, he stated, "I don't really care." The same teacher described that she had previously spoken to Mr. Ball's wife and felt that she did not pose any safety threat to the District and did not know of anyone who had seen Mr. Ball's wife approach the school.

Mr. Railey's accusations were extremely serious and, if true, could have impacted Superintendent Gibson's continued employment and her career in education. However, the investigation showed that Mr. Railey was fully aware he had no evidence to support his claims and acted recklessly by making them. As such, the investigation concludes that his accusations were false and made with the intent to harm Superintendent Gibson's reputation, to inflict strife on her family and embroil other ECS staff members in a bogus controversy.

While the Board of Education encourages and values each community member's freedom of speech under the First Amendment, the Board cautions against making personal, reproachful attacks against any school staff member that a subsequent investigation exposes as false and deceitful.

If there are any further questions or concerns, the Board invites the community to address them during future public hearings.



Jon Gruenberg
Board of Education President
Eastpointe Community Schools