

Resignation

Karen Abbott

Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 6:39 AM

To: John Landgaard

Cc: Brad Shaffer; Linden Olson; Lori Dudley; Steve Schnieder; Joel Lorenz; Mike Harberts; Scott Rosenberg; Barry Fischer; Deb Stoll; Jodi Hansen; jackie.baumgard@edmn.org

Dear Mr. Landgaard,

Necessitated by the actions of my supervisors, I am submitting my letter of resignation as Special Education Teacher at Worthington Area Learning Center effective immediately.

I have continually reported IDEA violations to supervisors, including Ms. Stoll, Mr. Fischer, and Dr. Clark. They have not only condoned the violations, they have either directly violated IDEA themselves, asked me to do the same, or simply ignored them all together. Because of this, and for questioning attendance and grading policies that unfairly impact both the health and education of the special education students at the ALC, I have been targeted and harassed by both teachers and administrators.

I have been humiliated, verbally attacked, followed around, and continually "talked to" about my professionalism. However, until yesterday, I was never formally reprimanded. Ms. Stoll informed me yesterday morning that PACER, an advocacy group for parents and students with disabilities, was requesting information from one of my students. Yesterday afternoon, I was called in for a meeting with Ms. Stoll and Mr. Fischer and immediately noticed on the table, a formal letter of reprimand. The timing of this was no surprise to me as I had told Mr. Fischer, several days earlier, that I had referred this student to PACER because she was in need of an advocate. I informed both Mr. Fischer and Ms. Stoll that I was uncomfortable having a disciplinary meeting without union representation. They proceeded with the meeting anyway telling me that I didn't need to sign anything, they just wanted to go over it with me. After being accused of many things to which I have evidence to the contrary, and of violations that I myself have pointed out, both Mr. Fischer and Ms. Stoll asked that I sign the reprimand. I refused.

It appears to me that Mr. Fischer and Ms. Stoll are attempting to quickly cover up, and assign blame to me, the very violations and non-compliance issues, that I have reported repeatedly, and they themselves have refused to address. Again, this immediately on the heels of a request for information from PACER.

I had intended to schedule a meeting with you to share my concerns and hopefully receive assistance, but I simply cannot stay any longer. The meeting yesterday was a clear indication that my situation would, if even possible, continue to get worse. I can no longer continue to work in such a hostile environment as it is directly affecting my health. I am currently under the care of both medical and mental health professionals for anxiety, and other physical conditions, due to the way I am being unfairly treated and singled out at work.

Sadly, I leave behind some extraordinary students who deserve so much more than what they are receiving at the ALC. I will return my devices and keys to the District by the end of the week.

Sincerely,

Karen Abbott
Special Education Teacher
ALC
Worthington Public Schools

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always."