



Jessica Hull <jhull@carmelunified.org>

Fwd: [RiverParents] Second Response from Concerned Families

Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 7:28 PM

[REDACTED]
 To: Jessica Hull <jhull@carmelunified.org>

Dear Jessica,

I attended tonight's board meeting and saw that there was a coordinated attack on me and my children that appear to be started from Jay Marden (as forwarded to Veronica Wheeler -- they attend the local Catholic church together).

Can I have a PRA for any emails to/from Jay Marden from February 7, 2022 through yesterday with any of the following search terms:

"Feb 16th"
 "Feb 16"
 "Feb. 16"
 "Feb. 16th"
 "February 16th"
 "February 16"
 "Al Qaeda"

As well as ALL emails to/from Jay Marden today, February 16?

I have a very strong and frightening suspicion that he tried to coordinate a retaliation against me and my children for speaking at last month's board meeting because the parents who spoke all spoke out against me, said that I was attacking teachers (which I never have but that's what Jay Marden said because it's very powerful rhetoric to convince parents who don't know better to attack me), and publicly tried to silence me from our experiences.

I would like to know what is happening.

Also, I just realized it's been an entire month without any further documents. I don't think it should take that long but if it's easier, just focus on all the emails to/from [REDACTED]

I would like to receive some documents every month so I know that there is a rolling production.

Thank you so much for your service.

Thanks,

Shel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Veronica DeGracia' via RiverParents [REDACTED]
 Date: Tue, Feb 8, 2022, 11:29 AM
 Subject: Re: [RiverParents] Second Response from Concerned Families
 To: [REDACTED]

Thank you Noelle!!!

You couldn't have said it better. The vast majority yes holds this near and dear to our hearts. We need everyone to step up and speak up.

You do have two opportunities!

First one is next week (**Feb 16th**) at the board meeting. **4pm. At Mearth**

Second opportunity is **March 3rd** at the PTA meeting in the **multi at 3:15pm.**

We cannot stay on the sidelines anymore when it comes to holding down these traditions. Once our children move on to other school sites they will have so many other opportunities that come along with that right of passage. We are still in elementary school. Let them be little.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 10:34 AM, Noelle Coetzee [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Concerned Parents,

I would like to encourage those still out there on this listserve to show Mr. Marden, the school, and the district your support at this time. I for one, am greatly saddened that a minority group has, on technicality, stolen what I hope the vast majority of us value.

I am fairly new to the River community, and I have been shocked at the level of trivial, B.S. that I've seen from minority parent groups. River school is an amazing place for our children to be educated, and some of us worked our asses off to get our kids here. We rent or buy houses at exorbitant prices to get our kids here. We have the best school district in CA, with the best teacher's I've encountered anywhere. Our campuses are on par with the richest private schools. Our extra programs are like no other in any public school district. Believe me, I know. I've taught in schools, where the school day consists of Reading, Writing, Math and Science taught by the general classroom teacher with a book and minimal supplies. We are privileged beyond belief, but that can all change very quickly without community involvement.

In my humble opinion, even though the district has won them, frivolous lawsuits and constant attacks from minority parents have taken not only our tax dollars, but now pose the risk to so much of what is valuable in our community. In an effort to eliminate the risk posed, and minimalize the stress put on administration and staff, I believe the district has and will choose to simply cancel community involvement activities. I don't think those that have brought the lawsuits, or their individual concerns, intend for this to happen, however sadly I believe, if the tone does not change this will be the consequence going forward.

I invite other parents who share this opinion to start a discussion about how we may just as loudly show our support for the school in these times.

Sincerely,

Noelle Coetzee

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:37 PM CUSD Families [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear River School Families:

Earlier today, Principal Jay Marden announced the cancellation of the annual Father-Daughter Dance and Mother-Son Carnival. This decision was blamed upon the "concerns expressed directly to the PTA board by a small, but vocal number of families". On the issue of inclusivity, River School's leaders never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. Instead of showing any flexibility to families that do not meet the artificial construct necessary to participate in these two events for a myriad of reasons, the school leadership chose to cancel them. The excluded family dynamics could range from anything from a deployed or deceased parent to a single parent of the same gender to same-gendered parents to any other variation that is common-place in today's modern society. In its refusal to change the events' names and in its insistence to cancel the events altogether, the school leadership effectively encapsulated the expression "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face." We ask that

the school leadership take the simple steps to make events inclusive. The unwillingness by the PTA board, who are the actual "small, but vocal" group cancelling these events, to facilitate diversity should not be used to needlessly punish students.

If this email sent via ParentSquare from Principal Jay Marden made you feel concerned about incitement of hate against our LGBTQ+ community, we can assure you that the school district, led by Superintendent Ted Knight, should and likely will investigate the continued abuse of a school district email account. Please feel free to forward this email and invite parents to join in our respectful conversation to request inclusion in our school district [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While we are a different group of CUSD families that include CUSD elementary, middle, and high school families, we support the new group named "Concerned parents at River Elementary School" located at [REDACTED]. Please note that we do not regularly monitor nor respond to emails sent to our account.

Concerned CUSD Families

Jay Marden posted in Carmel River Elementary School

PTA important announcement

Dear Carmel River School Parents,

Please know that we are pausing all PTA events and will be cancelling this spring's Father Daughter Family Dance and the Mother Son Family Carnival. As volunteers, we have devoted considerable time, energy and resources planning PTA events, which positively impact the lives of all children at River School. We will be re-evaluating the events we had planned for the rest of the year based on the concerns expressed directly to the PTA board by a small, but vocal number of families.

We are committed to fulfilling this mission and seek engagement and input from all of our members. Our goal is to move PTA discussions in a positive direction and ensure that we present ways to reallocate the funds to events that foster student engagement and excitement.

We look forward to the discussion at our next meeting planned for March 3 at 3:15 in our Ottertoreum.

Sincerely,
PTA Executive Board

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