



bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Fwd: Article taken down

Laura Kapuscinski <mkap@icloud.com>

Sat, Oct 22, 2022 at 3:20 PM

To: E [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will respond to the disputes however my letter was published as a Letter to Editor expressing my opinions. My responses are in red:

On Oct 22, 2022, at 11:22 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Laura, I forwarded the letter and disputes to my corporate editor. I've highlighted your statement and Angela's dispute.

It's been three years, and I haven't seen any passion for education from this member, so when exactly, is that scheduled to begin?

You made a blanket statement and she identified many areas across multiple committees with board members and administration. And she lists many notable accomplishments.

However, in stating this, this is your opinion and we will publish. She can respond with a statement. Thank you, this is my opinion and what I have experienced. I can't believe this was a serious dispute - this is an ugly attempt at censorship.

First time many parents, who have expressed concerns to her ("the selective activists"), heard her respond.

Who are you referring to? Give names of the people who have not heard from her. If these are emails written to the entire board, the board president speaks on behalf of the board. Individual board members do not respond to emails distributed across all members. This is protocol. I can supply you, Bobbie, with email responses I have received from Sai Akiri, Tom Foregger, Pamela Stanley, Jordan Hyman and Robert Cianciulli that were sent to the entire Board. It is not protocol to ignore parents, Angela is the Vice President of the Board and while she can not speak on behalf of the Board is in no way, shape or form prohibited from responding to an email. If you need to confirm with others who haven't gotten responses you can start with: [REDACTED] If you or Angela need more I can confirm with others if you or Angela need a list to fact-check this. I published a piece in regard to my unanswered emails: <https://bhcommunitywatch.com/2022/09/12/7-months-22-questions/>

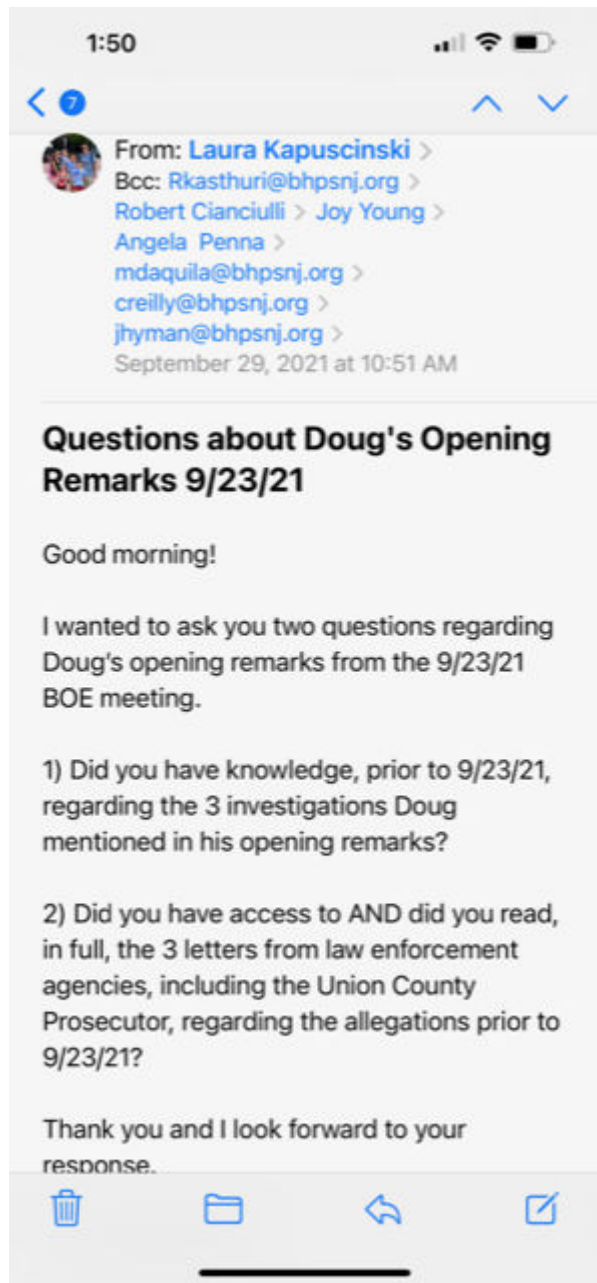
FDK -- "phased in approach" and "how-to NOT implement FDK" for other towns. And reconfiguration probably made [busing issue] worse.

The phased in approach is not a contradiction according to Angela. The district started with a phased-in approach and a Pilot in 2020 the year before implementation. You have no basis to say the issue with buses this year is due to reconfiguration. She states the fact that there has been a shortage of drivers and increased contract prices. She states she worked hard as part of the finance committee with the administration and aligned with BHEA to fix the issue as best they could. That's Angela's opinion. What she defines as "phased-in" is conclusive of a one-year pilot program followed by simultaneous reconfiguration, realignment and implementation of FDK during a global pandemic with a failure to address several concerns, case and point: traffic study. If she needs a reminder on the spin Dr. Varley took on the BHPD regarding the traffic study - I'm happy to provide those articles to her. Phased-in is roughly defined as "gradually, over a period of time." The FDK implementation was NOT phased in (like families asked for). I said the decision to reconfigure "probably" made the busing issue worst, that is my opinion! And, I'm not the only one who believes this: <https://bhcommunitywatch.com/2022/09/18/failing-to-plan-is-planning-to-fail/>

Publicly disparaged two other parents and me with false information, several Board members reached out to me to apologize for the President's behavior.

What board members reached out to you? You are implying most members reached out and she added, you are "trying to blame me for something that I wasn't involved with." I am not involved in an investigation and out of respect for those that reached out to me it is not in the best interest of anyone to publish resident names. Again, this is my personal op-ed - is she disputing several reached out or disputing she wasn't to

blame for not replying to me or reaching to me? . An email was sent to each Board member following the remarks Doug made at the 9/23/21 meeting: 5 members replied, Angela and one other did not reply. Following that 2 additional members called me on the phone to express their thoughts. I will edit several to "2 members reached out to me to apologize..." She was involved because she was sitting at the Dias, at the meeting and allowed the President to publicly disparage me. I am calling out her silence. I am not blaming her - I am stating a fact. Here is my email (she disputes below she only replies to "serious" emails and those sent directly to her - this was one serious (but that's my opinion) and was bcc'd to all members - so it was essentially directly to her - but went ignored.)



The committee was unanimous that the sole purpose of Zoom was to provide opportunities for stakeholders involvement and engagement using a hybrid model. This decision was made by the Board President. He has the authority to make Executive Decisions. Angela said she was not authorized to respond. She said you knowingly are fabricating false responsibilities in order to fault her. **I am fabricating NOTHING. In fact Angela spoke publicly about when the Board intended on resuming HYBRID ZOOM meetings. She might not have been authorized to respond on behalf of the Board, but she is also aware the NO ONE responded to me. Additionally, other Board members have spoken to this publicly - Sai has. Angela has the ability to**

disagree with the Board President and to do so publicly - she remained silent. I highlighted this all in an article with quotes from meeting minutes and from the live meeting: <https://bhcommunitywatch.com/2022/08/22/board-zoom-meetings/>

Regarding the French program -- The program remained only because of teachers, students, and parents. Once Mike and Angela saw the email from John Paul, that was the first they heard about what was going on. Parents reached out and she reached out to the curriculum committee members, board members, administration and the president and they spoke to the superintendent. They didn't approve of what had happened and they were determined to fix it. Her response goes on to talk about the process. She does not speak for the board. "The truth is I did a tremendous amount to respond to the situation and she is yet again knowingly creating a false narrative to damage my reputation." I do not believe this and I am not creating any false narratives - I am stating the facts. If Mrs. Penna choose to have conversations behind closed doors and chooses to remain mostly silent during meetings there is no evidence of her involvement in the process or evidence of her supporting concerned parents. If she can provide a list of names of parents she reached out to regarding French - or evidence of these conversations/meetings or the "tremendous amount to respond to the situation" I will consider an edit. And she needs to be clear on which curriculum committee; there are 2 in this district. A PTO curriculum committee in which I was the CMS rep last year - she definitely did NOT reach out to me; and there is a Board Curriculum committee - perhaps she can produce committee meeting minutes as her facts? In fact, Tom Foregger indicated this was discussed in committee meetings and appears to be the only one on record to disagree with the decision to remove French. John Paul wrote a Tap article on this very topic: <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/berkeley-heights/sections/education/articles/the-berkeley-heights-public-schools-french-controversy-of-2022-a-written-record-of-events>

Angela co-published an inaccurate letter regarding the District budget process
She said this is not true, it is your opinion the letter was inaccurate. You can not imply that she tried to take down your letter with the district's attempt. I did not imply she had a hand in taking my letter down, I stated "the District attempted to remove my letter." Her letter WAS inaccurate, I published a piece regarding those inaccuracies that Melissa Varley tried to take down but couldn't, because I provided documentation of fact to TAPinto. Here is my factually accurate letter regarding budget: <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/berkeley-heights/sections/education/articles/the-actual-accurate-facts-regarding-the-budget> and another factually accurate letter: <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/berkeley-heights/sections/education/articles/the-berkeley-heights-public-school-2022-budget-controversy-synopsis>

PTO Curriculum Committee, Angela has failed to attend a single meeting
She confirmed that in 2020 the board decided that instead of having a PTO curriculum liaison representative they would put together a Curriculum Committee so the board could be more informed in curriculum. This committee replaced the PTO Curriculum Liaison. There is no board liaison in 2020, 2021, or 2022. This is a LIE. The minutes have Angela listed as the Board Liaison. In fact, the last meeting members were told by Mary Beth Kopacz that Angela had a meeting that conflicted with the date/time and couldn't attend. The recent minutes demonstrate the issue of Angela's absence/absence of BOE rep was discussed and the action item was to request all members of the Board Curriculum meeting rotate at PTO Curriculum meetings. Here is a copy of the most recent minutes: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fbhhrVY7vH8tNGeSagFh3ZsEhh8gimcTCyisUf59muo/mobilebasic>

Willful disregard in ignoring emails from parents and the questions therein.
Emails directed to the board are answered by the President. She has responded to "serious" correspondence from parents who reached out to her directly. She doesn't respond to rhetorical questioning often on forums that she is not on. How does she categorize what is serious and what is not? She is confirming she is selective in who she responds to based on a system of importance she or the Board had assigned based on bias and opinion? This is Angela's opinion, not a fact. I will not edit this - my opinion is she has demonstrated to ME a willful disregard in ignoring my emails. It is also my opinion that ignoring some parents while answering others is willful disregard and ultimately, a failure to represent those she was elected to be a voice for. What forums? I did not bring up forums.

She was never my voice. Not once.

Angela said this is not true. She said, "Laura reached out to me directly during the FDK process and I did engage with her. We tried to meet up, but it didn't work out. I did not ignore her." She did NOT engage with

me - she offered to meet but kept canceling - this is a LIE. I wrote her (and other BOE members) a lengthy email (4/26/21) - which she quoted in her speech the night FDK was approved - but she never replied to that email. There was NO conversation and definitely no engagement - unless Angela defines engagement as reading an email? And I will not edit this, she is not my voice - that is my right to state that - it's ridiculous she is disputing my voice!

Board as driven by a Democratic process, but her time on the board is evidenced by anything but. She describes the process. "We meet in committees and executive sessions and the public to discuss business and we only approve decisions that are determined by the majority of the board. That is a democratic process." Again, this is my opinion. In a democracy, those elected represent those they serve and it also involves citizens active participation in the decision making process. If Angela is selective in her process to answer emails/engage she can not properly represent her constituents - her admission in this dispute that she doesn't reply to all emails is evidence enough.

Shouldn't be demonized by politicians like Ms. Penna for doing so. If you are stating she demonized parents you need to back that up. She doesn't recall ever attacking anyone.

Her entire candidate statement is evidence of my statement. She negatively represents involved parents seeking a more ethical board and administration as well as her fellow Board members. The highlights of that statement are:

1. *"Yet information has been leaked to individuals outside the school on several occasions with the goal to disrupt and create a perception of disorganization. Those individuals have then made that information public for political purposes."*
2. *"There has been a rise in attacks against the board that are not grounded in fact. People are simply engaging in reputation and character destruction to discredit people whom they see as a threat to them. This is pure dirty politics. I am not a politician."*
3. *"I am convinced that if these "select" activists are successful in distorting the truth and selling that to enough people, we will see bad outcomes for the school system."*
4. *"Board members are engaging in their own forms of political posturing and grandstanding; particularly when they disagree with their fellow board members. Depending upon our biases we all react differently every time we see this happen. We see statements in social media suffixed with "This is my personal opinion and not the opinion of the Board." That is simply a red flag when used out of election season. It says, "I am not succeeding in the democratic process within the board, so I am going to go rogue for my own personal gain...Although I am a member of Berkeley Heights School Board, my comments are neither authorized by nor written on behalf of the Board."*

With these disputes, you should make edits to your letter for reconsideration.

I have responded to these disputes and request my letter, unedited, be published. It is not a candidate statement but an opinion piece. Angela is welcome to disagree with them but they are my opinions and I believe I have provided adequate detail in my rebuttal of Angelas disputes. If you are unable to post my article, in its original form on TAPinto, please let me know what specifically needs to be addressed there is not untrue about my Letter.

Warm regards,



Regards,
Laura



