

July 16, 2019

Mason Classical Academy Board of Directors
3073 Horseshoe Drive S
Naples, FL 34104

Board Members,

I am writing to inquire as to why you have not addressed by letter sent by me to CCPS on June 14, 2019, in which I file a complaint that the MCA Board President, Kelly Mason Lichter, knowingly failed to disclose to the Board that her husband was a convicted felon and should not have been permitted to be on school property in any volunteer capacity.

Per MCA's volunteer policy, "MCA requires all prospective volunteers to complete a screening and training process. The volunteer screening and training process is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and...". This policy is reiterated in the MCA Parent Handbook.

Per the email from Susan Turner, included in my June 14 complaint, there were no records of a Level II background screening of Mr. Lichter. I have further been able to verify by communications with Mr. Joe Whitehead, that Mr. Lichter has not been subjected to the Level II background screening and the school is aware of his criminal background. However, why would Mrs. Lichter not disclose this information to the Board for discussion before ever letting Mr. Lichter serve in any volunteer capacity? I don't think there is any situation in which Mrs. Lichter could state that it never occurred to her that Mr. Lichter was not able to volunteer at the school based on the policies she was voting on and implementing at the school. Another question that also needs to be asked: What other Board Members were aware of Mr. Lichter's record and failed to act on this information?

While this complaint was submitted to CCPS on June 14, 2019, all the Board members of MCA were also copied on the complaint on the same date, which now leads to the potential for further violations of policy by the entire Board at this point.

Pursuant to the most recent published MCA Policies Manual Volume I (ver. 23 January 2019), Policy B 13.0 - Violation of Established Policies; “Anyone who experiences a violation of a policy is encouraged to notify the school Administration, and/or Board of Directors.” Based on the email date of June 14, 2019, the Board of Directors would have been notified of the accusation of violation on or about that date and would be required to review the accusation, in the “Sunlight” at the next Board of Directors meeting. There have been three Board meetings since my email (7/2/19, 7/8/19 & 7/11/19) and yet this violation of policy has yet to be addressed. This would appear to be a further violation of MCA Policy by every member of the MCA Board that has not addressed the first potential violation.

Is the Board planning on addressing these violations at any point?

Sincerely,
Christopher Durst
7318 Donatello Court
Naples, FL 34114

CC: CCPS – Jon Fishbane
Florida Department of Education