
Formal complaint

7 messages

Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED]

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 4:39 PM

To: Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org>, sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>, "aalfano@https.org" <aalfano@https.org>, "ereinle@https.org" <ereinle@https.org>, "nickdemsak@https.org" <nickdemsak@https.org>, "bdrelick@https.org" <bdrelick@https.org>, "RHoffman@https.org" <RHoffman@https.org>, "cmarotta@https.org" <cmarotta@https.org>

FORMAL Request for Investigation into Privacy Violations, Misconduct, and Misrepresentation

Dear Mr. Ryder and Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to address a series of concerning incidents involving Mr. Ryder, Peggy VanGinneken, and Dave VanGinneken, which have compromised my privacy, undermined my candidacy for the Board of Education, and contradicted the district's values of kindness and anti-bullying. As a parent and candidate, I request a thorough investigation into these matters. I also intend to speak publicly at the next Board of Education meeting to address these issues and advocate for transparency and accountability.

In June, I visited Hardyston Middle School to discuss a personal matter with Mr. Ryder in a private meeting. I explicitly requested that the door be closed to ensure confidentiality, as the discussion involved sensitive information. Mr. Ryder refused, stating that his secretary needed to be present to take notes and that everything was confidential. However, during our conversation, a security guard entered the office, students dropped off items, and another secretary, Peggy VanGinneken, was present. These individuals could overhear our discussion, which I find unacceptable as a parent addressing personal matters. This incident raises concerns about potential violations of confidentiality, including under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), if student records were discussed. Further, I have learned that Dave VanGinneken, who is not a member of the Board of Education, operates a fake Board of Education news page that has posted my personal information and spread slanderous falsehoods. I find it highly suspicious that Mr. VanGinneken had access to details not shared publicly, especially given that his wife, Peggy VanGinneken, was present during my private meeting and works in the school office. This suggests a possible breach of confidentiality by school staff.

Additionally, when I called the school to confirm my candidacy paperwork for the upcoming Board of Education election, Peggy VanGinneken claimed she could not locate my documents, denying me the paperwork to clear up her husband's accusations. This just before Dave VanGinneken wrote a letter to the Newton clerk's office/county election office attempting to have me removed from the ballot. The timing and nature of these events are deeply concerning and suggest a coordinated effort to undermine my candidacy and violate my privacy. I have submitted all required paperwork for my candidacy and have documentation to prove it, which I can provide upon request.

Mr. VanGinneken's fake news page appears to bully and defame individuals, directly contradicting the district's commitment to kindness and anti-bullying. These actions not only harm me personally but also erode trust in our school community. As a parent and candidate, I believe we must address this behavior decisively. respectfully request that the Board of Education investigate the following:

1. The circumstances of my meeting with Mr. Ryder including why my request for privacy was denied and whether confidential information was improperly disclosed.
2. Whether Peggy VanGinneken mishandled or disclosed my candidacy paperwork or other sensitive information to her husband, Dave VanGinneken.
3. The nature and content of Dave VanGinneken's letter to the clerk's office/county election office and whether it relied on improperly obtained information.
4. The operation of a fake Board of Education news page by Dave VanGinneken, including its misrepresentation of official board authority and its defamatory content.

I urge the district to take swift action to address these violations, ensure accountability, and prevent future incidents. I will attend the next Board of Education meeting on 8/12/25 to speak publicly about these concerns and advocate for a school environment that upholds fairness, privacy, and respect.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact me to discuss next steps or confirm receipt of this letter.
Dana Kalczuk

Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org>

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 5:27 PM

To: Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED]

Cc: sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>, "aalfano@https.org" <aalfano@https.org>, "ereinle@https.org" <ereinle@https.org>, "nickdemsak@https.org" <nickdemsak@https.org>, "bdrelick@https.org" <bdrelick@https.org>, "RHoffman@https.org" <RHoffman@https.org>, "cmarotta@https.org" <cmarotta@https.org>

Mrs. Kalczuk,

Your prior emails to me last night and throughout today were also formal complaints, and I have addressed them accordingly.

To respond to your points directly:

1. **Privacy During Meeting** – Your privacy was never compromised. The meeting was conducted without any staff present other than Nicole Meyer, my confidential secretary, whose role is to take notes and handle confidential matters. No other staff were present, and no details of our conversation were shared.

2. **Residency Appeal Documents** – Mrs. Van Ginneken did not have your notarized paperwork. That documentation was in my possession because your residency was the subject of an appeal. She did not lie to you.

3 & 4. **Outside BOE/District Jurisdiction** – These items do not involve the Board of Education or the District. They concern matters entirely outside our legal authority.

I must point out that much of your complaint relies on speculation and assumptions rather than verified facts. Allegations of misconduct are serious, and I cannot address them without concrete evidence. If you have proof to support your claims, please provide it so that I can review and determine if any further action is warranted. Regarding the letter you reference from Mr. Van Ginneken to the County, I have no knowledge of its contents. If you wish to obtain a copy, you may file an OPRA request directly with the County Clerk's Office.

Lastly, I previously emailed you requesting a time when we could meet to discuss these matters further. I have yet to receive your response. Please reply with your availability so we can arrange that meeting.

Sincerely,
Michael Ryder
Superintendent of Schools

[Quoted text hidden]

Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED] Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 5:44 PM
To: Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org>, sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>, jbarrett@hsps.org, "RHoffman@https.org" <RHoffman@https.org>, "nickdemsak@https.org" <nickdemsak@https.org>, "bdrelick@https.org" <bdrelick@https.org>, "slucarelli@https.org" <slucarelli@https.org>, "cmarotta@https.org" <cmarotta@https.org>, "ereinle@https.org" <ereinle@https.org>, "aalfano@https.org" <aalfano@https.org>

1. There was no privacy in that meeting because u refused to close the door next to the main office. Your secretary was not in the room with us she was in the main office. So if u expected her to hear us everyone else in there heard our conference as well. The question is why did u refuse to shut the door for privacy? If u wanted the secretary to hear she should have came in the room with us and the door should have been closed.

2. I never said Peggy had my notarized letter. I said I called asking for it and she made up excuses saying it wasn't in my file. I had to wait for her to find it. Why are my confidential papers not in my file? They shouldn't be lost or in different areas in office. This was an excuse to give time so I couldn't go to clerk office to hand it in. Her and her husband are working together to sabotage me. The way she treats me alone when I go to the school is unacceptable.

3. I'm requesting an investigation about this. I would also like you to speak to Peggy about this matter. I would like to know a response.

3. I'll meet you this week with Mrs verso I need a day and time

[Quoted text hidden]

Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org> Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 6:02 PM
To: Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED]
Cc: sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>, jbarrett@hsps.org, "RHoffman@https.org" <RHoffman@https.org>, "nickdemsak@https.org" <nickdemsak@https.org>, "bdrelick@https.org" <bdrelick@https.org>, "slucarelli@https.org" <slucarelli@https.org>, "cmarotta@https.org" <cmarotta@https.org>, "ereinle@https.org" <ereinle@https.org>, "aalfano@https.org" <aalfano@https.org>

Mrs. Kalczuk,

1. My office is not next to the main office. You may be confusing my office with Ms. O'Mara's. The security officer and Mrs. Van Ginneken were not present during our meeting.

2. Again, Mrs. Van Ginneken did not "make up excuses." I have already explained this. I do not understand how you believe you were sabotaged, but we can discuss this in more detail when we meet.

3. Earlier today, I offered to include Mrs. Van Ginneken in my email to you. I am happy to do so if you would like.

4. I will get back to you tomorrow after I have spoken with Mrs. Verso.

I recognize that this situation is frustrating, and I understand it must be very difficult to read false statements about yourself on someone's website. I would be upset as well. However, I would caution you to consider the source. This is not the *Wall Street Journal*; it is more akin to a tabloid like the *National Enquirer*. It carries no weight or credibility.

Sincerely,
Mike Ryder

[Quoted text hidden]

Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED]
To: Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org>, sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 6:32 PM

It has nothing to do with me reading false statements on fb so please stop saying that. It has to do with the way I'm being treated by one of your employees whose husband is writing lies about me. Do u think it's ok I'm dropping confidential papers off to this woman when her husband is doing this? I'm just suppose to trust her? She is rude when I go there as well.

So I guess we had a meeting in Mrs omara's office. It was the room right off the main office. So why was the door open? We had many meetings before where ur secretary didn't have to be present or hear what was going on so why this time? Yes Peggy was there in main office with your secretary at the time listening to our meeting. And the security guard did go in the office as well. These people may have not been in the room with us, but they were in main office and could hear us because door was wide open.

I already answered u about the meeting I said let's meet. No there is no need to have Peggy in there with us. Obviously she would never admit to doing this so it would be pointless. I do expect u, as her boss, to question her about this matter. I want answers. I never said anything to about this matter so how is this out in the public? I want to get to the bottom of this.

Also why was I denied the letter I asked for by Peggy when I called? U never explained this! Maybe these are questions u should be asking her. Something isn't right here. All of this is just not a coincidence

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Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org>
To: Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED]
Cc: sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 6:47 PM

Mrs. Kalczuk,

Our meeting was in my office, not Ms. O'Mara's. My office is connected to my secretary's and is near the business office, not the main office. Nobody else was present when we were talking.

Yes, I have explained about the letter—unless we are talking about two different things. I had some documents in my possession because we were conducting a residency appeal. Mrs. Van Ginneken would not have had access to all documents in my possession.

I will reach out to you tomorrow.

Good night,
Mike Ryder

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Dana Kalczuk [REDACTED]
To: Mike Ryder <mryder@https.org>, sverso@https.org, Donna Carey <dcarey@https.org>

Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 6:57 PM

Whatever room was off main office that's what we were in and those people were present. I'll talk to u tomorrow

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