

CBO:

Attached find information about some grants that are currently being audited. To our knowledge, the audit has not yet been completed. While one of Wheatland's worst kept secrets for more than a year, you can be sure that very few people who actually need to know this information have been brought into the loop. One of the community donors gave tens of thousands, now sits on the Board and likely has no idea that the funds were misappropriated. Stipends have been paid out from that grant money to multiple district employees who didn't deserve them, especially given they weren't even the original grant writers. Despite providing some pretty incredible opportunities for students, the people responsible for those programs have engaged in some questionable activities, thus triggering the audit. It has been reported that some of the grant money was allegedly funneled through Bear River non-profits (FFA Alumni & Renaissance, which seem to use the same EIN# for tax purposes?) and then paid out to a few individuals with specific account access to those funds. It is important that you learn more about their involvement because at least one of them is a site admin (Gouker) and has long been interested in the superintendent position (in fact, if you ask us, she'd be worse than Guensler, if that's even possible). Moving forward there needs to be some strict guidelines on how grant money is allocated.

It is likely you have discovered by now that contracts favorable to very particular conditions for a select few and generous pay/benefits have bought loyalty in certain circles for the better part of the last 7-10 years. Nepotism and favoritism have been common practice. Below highlights what we have submitted to the Yuba County Grand Jury as a formal Complaint. We filed this Complaint after receiving advice to do so from a retired judge as well as multiple retired and current superintendents. The Grand Jury will of course determine the scope of their investigation, but we wanted to inform you of the existence of our Complaint on the chance they hadn't contacted you and you wanted to reach out to them on your own. Our Complaint cited more than 40 violations of Ed Code, Brown Act, CCR, CALPERS/STRS policies, Board Policies, etc....

- **Board Benefits** - Board Members receive a more generous benefits package than teachers and staff. They receive more in benefits in 1 year than some paraprofessionals (who aren't allowed enough hours to receive benefits) spending 5.5 hours per day/5 hours per week ever will. The benefits have caused the Board to be self-motivated and driven by selfish reasons. For years, the Board has been composed of local ranchers and business owners who ran for the position so they could have access to health benefits. Primarily their allegiance is to themselves and to the Superintendent, supporting him and keeping him happy since he has been the one controlling their purse strings. The Board Members with family members/spouses who are employees have been especially loyal. They should all be embarrassed by their conduct and for allowing things to get this far and more needs to be done to expose their lack of action and accountability over the years.
- **Classified Contracts** - There is a clause in their contracts that allows for them to turn down health benefits for cash-in-lieu monies if they were part-time. This clause was added for a specific few (Bogdanoff, Crabb, Clark and several others). The 2 with board member spouses turned down their benefits in favor of going on their spouse's board benefits. The 3rd is a family member of the superintendent. Both Bogdanoff and Crabb have publicly confirmed they do this, yet their maintenance employee spouses maintain full-time, year round positions.
- **Waltz** - She only ran for the Board for the health benefits. As soon as she is age-eligible for Medicare at 65 she will not seek reelection. In her place, her son will run. He is the husband of the "District Nurse" who had that job created for her by her Board Member mother-in-law when their daughter was diagnosed with diabetes. No one at any of the school sites gets better medical attention than her kid and the kids of her friends. Meanwhile, staff are behind on updating TB

records, her Health Aides do not like her and she's skipping daily IEP-mandated nurse care in favor of not missing lunch time with her kid. Staff at Lone Tree have stated they do not like having her at their site because she is rude, snide, and lazy. To be honest, all of the school sites are happy when she is not at their site. Her salary is outrageous for a person in her position and unnecessary in a district of this size.

- McDonald - When she was hired by her father, it was temporary and he used that loophole to make the position full-time and simply give it to her. It was never posted. No one else was allowed to interview for it. He hired her when her only experience was working at Yankee Candle.
- Guzmans - Every single rumor you have heard about them is true. That man had no place even keeping his credentials after what he did as principal at Lone Tree, let alone being allowed to keep a teaching position and rise back up to an admin level job. He might not be a part of some of the financial dishonesty and shady practices, but he has benefitted all the same, and runs student discipline in a similar fashion (notably disappearing his own daughter's referrals for bullying while throwing the book at her classmates for much lesser infractions). Don't trust either of them.
- Former CBO - She had a contract for 60% work from home, yet lived in Florida full-time while a consulting firm was paid generously to do her job. She was hired the same way the super's daughter was hired, without experience and on a temporary basis til he made her job permanent and with a promotion.
- Guensier - There is something about his contract that does not add up to the pay listed publicly on Transparent California or what he has self-reported on Public Records Requests. We have sought the opinion of other CBOs, Superintendents, and Payroll Techs who can't make sense of the numbers. Former HR Director has confirmed he has many "perks" written into his contract as well as many more that have never been written in - stipend for not refilling the preschool director, maintenance director, and food services director positions, stipends for grants awarded to the district, his master's degree stipend is higher than what principals and teachers receive, he receives funds into a 493b/457 retirement account (other employees have to pay for this themselves), and his STRS is fully funded by the district (when all other employees have to fund a portion on their own). A detailed review of his annual pay is needed.

A new superintendent should hopefully provide opportunities to right the wrongs and set this district in a more positive direction, both financially and in overall atmosphere. The teachers have been so used to getting whatever they ask for in negotiations due to the superintendent's "me too" clause that they have fallen out of touch with how bad things are financially. That man has been allowed by the Board to bankrupt this district and retire. If actions aren't taken quickly, there won't be time to hold him accountable. What a sad state of affairs for our children and our community.

Have you considered involving FCMAT? We took our concerns to them but they can only act at the request of a Board Member or employee. The YCOE Superintendent can also request their presence but with a child at Bear River, he will most certainly not do that during an election year.

We appreciate you. We see you. We know it's bad. We know how hard your job is right now and we are so blessed to have you here.

Signed,

A Collective of Current & Former Employees