

## **Attachment - Amended**

As Superintendent of Marlboro County School District, I authorized Omega Psi Phi to leave the mobile unit on the campus of Bennettsville Intermediate School to be used as an educational space to mentor male students. Notwithstanding any authority I may have as Superintendent, I should have informed the Board of Trustees formally. I want to remain Superintendent and hope the Board will vote Monday, October 4, 2021, to reinstate me with full authority outlined in his employment contract and District policies.

### **Statement of Facts**

The citizens of Marlboro County supported a bond referendum in November 2018. Consequently, the Marlboro County School District Board of Trustees decided to auction eleven (11) surplus mobile units in 2019. Most of the units were auctioned and either moved at the expense of purchaser or demolished at the district's expense. One (1) unit was donated to a Battered Women Shelter.

The mobile in question was ultimately purchased by a member of the local chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity ("Fraternity"). By information and belief, it had been sold by the district to a private citizen named Levander Goodman. Levander Goodman sold it to a district employee, John Young. John Young ultimately sold it to member of the local Omega Psi Phi chapter.

I am member of the Fraternity and do support many of the local, state, and national initiatives financially and otherwise. I do not know which member of the local chapter actually bought and own the mobile unit. I also have no knowledge of any financial arrangement, if any, between Omega Psi Phi and the member that owns the unit. From information and belief, the local chapter and/or the individual member that own(s) the unit was unable to move the unit because of zoning issues related to the property in which the unit would be relocated.

The local Fraternity ultimately decided that the unit could be used as an educational space to mentor elementary-aged males on the campus of Bennettsville Intermediate School ("BIS"). As superintendent, I was approached by members of the local fraternity regarding this desire. Members of the local fraternity and I consulted individually with then-Principal Crystal Halma. She and I both agreed that this was a good idea and good use of the mobile unit. I unilaterally made the decision that the unit could remain on BIS's property and be used for the limited purposes of educational space for mentoring elementary-age males that attended BIS. This decision was made in early spring 2020.

In March 2020, the District closed all school properties, and the national leaders of Omega Psi Phi closed all facilities due to COVID-19. By information and belief, no formal or informal fraternity activities took place in this mobile unit from its purchase by a member of the fraternity in Fall 2019 until June/July 2021. In short, though owned by a member of the local fraternity, no activities occurred in the unit or on school grounds for approximately nineteen (19)

months. By information and belief, the only exception to this was the general remodeling work completed by small groups (3-4 people) of members of the local fraternity.

In April 2021, the District amended its Liberty Mutual insurance policy to include a “portable unit” at BIS. I do not remember calling the insurance company, any other entity, or staff member and directing them to add this unit to the district’s insurance. If in fact this unit was added, it may have been as a normal audit of assets housed on district’s property.

In July 2021, the first meeting of the fraternity was held in the unit. I was present and reiterated to the fraternity the importance of the mentoring program and their prior commitment to it. In the interim, I did speak with the new principal of Bennettsville Intermediate School, Ashley Taylor, regarding the mentoring program. She, too, expressed her agreement with the need and appreciated the support.

In August 2021, the local fraternity did have a community social gathering recognizing new members of the fraternity. This event was held at BIS. By information and belief, no events were inside of the mobile unit because there was no air conditioning in the unit. This community event was not a “fraternity-only” event. There were many families, elected officials, religious leaders, and others that attended this event. I, too, was present. The allegations of a “frat party with drugs and alcohol” are unfounded and untrue.

On September 21, 2021, the local fraternity paid to have the mobile unit demolished. The local fraternity has also agreed to reimburse Marlboro County School District reasonable cost associated with the unit since its purchase by the member of the local fraternity.

The decision to allow this unit to remain on property owned by the district was made by me. The Board should have been notified formally, notwithstanding any authority I may have as Superintendent. I accept full responsibility. I desire for the Board and I to work collaboratively to put this issue behind us and continue the tremendous work we have done on behalf of the students, teachers, and citizens of Marlboro County.

Sincerely,

Gregory McCord  
Superintendent, Marlboro County School District