

Beth Moen Kolodjski

February 21, 2012

School Board
Roseville School District ISD623
1251 County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113

Re: Treatment of Community Members

Dear School Board Members:

On February 14, 2012, I attended the School Board meeting held at the District Center and spoke during public comment time. At approximately 7:20 p.m., I left to go home. The Board was conducting business at that time.

As I was walking in the hallway towards the front door, Ms. Edstrom entered the hallway. I was surprised to see her. I smiled and said "hi" to her, but she did not return the greeting. Instead, she aggressively accosted and threatened me. She made false allegations against me and threatened to "come after me." The manner in which she delivered this threat convinced me it was a threat of bodily harm.

I felt very threatened by Ms. Edstrom; the tone of her voice, body language, the way she glared at me, her stature and her position of authority were all very intimidating. Ms. Edstrom was unwaveringly convinced that I did what she was accusing me of. Her threat was to "come after me" if I ever did it again. I found this to be very scary since I had no knowledge of what she was talking about. I worried she may actually come after me in the future if she comes up with more false ideas. Feeling very bullied, I ultimately attempted to stand up for myself. I was very shook up when I left.

Therefore, I filed a police report after leaving the District Center. The officer asked if I would like them to take action, but I declined. I indicated I simply wanted it on record in case she did anything in the future.

Is it acceptable for a School Board member to leave during the middle of a School Board meeting to track down and aggressively confront, with threats and accusations, an unsuspecting citizen who had spoken during public comment time?

If it is not acceptable, I would like to know what the Board will do about this. If it is acceptable, please help me to understand how this is consistent with your governance policies and your goals of partnering with all members of the District 623 community. The decision the Board makes will set the precedence for how citizens can expect to be treated by Board members in the future.

I would like to be informed in writing of what action is taken. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Beth Moen Kolodjski

Ms. Kitty Gogins
1251 County Road B2 W
Roseville, MN 55113

March 6, 2012

Ms. Beth Moen Kolodjski
[REDACTED]

Re: Treatment of Roseville Area Schools' Stakeholders

Dear Ms. Moen Kolodjski:

I am writing in response to your letter of February 21, 2012.

In my role as School Board Chairperson, I have looked into the incident outside the School Board meeting room between you and School Board Member Edstrom on February 14, 2012. In reviewing your verbal and written comments on the exchange, as well as Ms. Edstrom's, it is clear that you and she have different recollections on key elements of the incident. Ms. Edstrom, like you, was deeply concerned with the interaction.

After review of school board policy, I have concluded that Ms. Edstrom's decision to leave the board table during a school board meeting to talk to a citizen is not a violation of board policy. However, as board members we are held to high standards in interacting with the public, and I have discussed with Ms. Edstrom how and when to engage citizens to have positive interactions.

Roseville Area Schools strongly values and encourages respectful interactions between citizens, students, staff members, and school board members. No citizen attending a school board meeting, no staff member, no student and no school board members should be subject to verbal or physical abuse at any time for any reason.

I take your concerns and the concerns of Ms. Edstrom very seriously. I believe both parties should move forward with a commitment to interact with each other in a respectful manner. Ms. Edstrom is committed to adhering to the values of Roseville Area Schools. I ask you to please refrain from profanity or physical contact when communicating with board members.

Thank you for coming to the board meeting and being engaged in working to provide a high quality education for our students. I apologize for any disrespect you felt at the meeting.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,


Kitty Gogins
Roseville Area School Board Chair

Cc: School Board