

RECEIVED BY  
SCHOOL ETHICS COMMISSION  
2021 JUL 26 : A 11:30

NAME OF COMPLAINANT(S) : HEATHER A. HENRY  
v. : BEFORE THE SCHOOL  
: ETHICS COMMISSION  
: OF NEW JERSEY  
NAME OF RESPONDENT(S) : STACEY PRICE - MUNSON  
: COMPLAINT FORM

I, Heather A. Henry residing at [REDACTED] Twp. of Washington, NJ 07676 and [REDACTED] request the School Ethics Commission to consider a complaint against the above-named Stacey J. Price - Munson whose home address is [REDACTED] Twp. of Washington, NJ 07676, in accordance with the authority of the School Ethics Commission to entertain such complaints under N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

**The facts upon which this complaint is based are as follows: (Please print additional pages as needed. Students should be identified by initials only. )**

1. Statement of facts:
  - I. Westwood Regional BOE member Stacey Price - Munson intentionally and knowingly interfered with a school board vote by publicly posting incorrect information regarding said vote, engaged in conversation with the public on a public social media platform (Westwood High School (NJ) Alumni Facebook page) with both public comments and private messages regarding the vote and stating what her vote would be BEFORE the meeting of (6/21/21). (See attached screenshots). \*All of her comments and postings have since been conveniently removed from this FB page.
  - II. This misinformation posted to an alumni page of mostly people who live out of state / district caused hundreds of comments fueled by Ms. Price-Munson's own misinformation in stating the vote was to name the entire football field complex when in fact the application was only for the stadium/bleachers which obviously she knew (see attached application). She also continued dialogue with these people expressing her own opinion on the subject and encouraging people to write / email the entire board regarding the vote. This produced hundreds of comments and solicited emails from out of district people.
  - III. In addition, this FB page is administered by another BOE member Roberta Hanlon who did nothing to interfere or correct with the ongoing postings by Ms. Price-Munson. This activity was brought to the board president and superintendent before the meeting/vote by both me and the person who submitted the application (J.S.) BEFORE the vote in an effort to have it corrected, but neither board president or superintendent responded. Only after a second email from myself (see enclosed) did the superintendent respond suggesting I file this complaint. Please read my 2<sup>nd</sup> email to understand the gravity of this situation. So much work went into initially creating a new policy for the district o

For Agency Use Only

Docket Number: \_\_\_\_\_

even allow this application going back to November of 2019, it is beyond frustrating that a newly elected board member would then come in and sabotage this work. I respectfully ask that you look at all the facts in this situation and consider removing Ms. Price - Munson from the board and rule the original vote invalid due to her tampering.

Date of occurrence: **June 10, 2021 – 6/21/21.**

I assert this to be a violation of: 18A: 12-24. Conflicts of Interest.

WHEREFORE, I, as Complainant, request that the School Ethics Commission find and determine that the above-named Respondent(s) has violated the School Ethics Act and that he or she be subject to such penalty as provided by the Act.

Date 7/19/21

Heather A. Henry  
Signature of Complainant  
or his or her Attorney

### CERTIFICATION UNDER OATH

(Name of Complainant), of full age, being duly sworn upon his or her oath according to law deposes and says:

1. I am the complainant in this matter.
2. I have read the complaint and aver that the facts contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that the statute that created the School Ethics Commission authorizes the School Ethics Commission to impose penalties for filing a frivolous complaint. N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29(e). I am aware that if the respondent alleges that the complaint is frivolous, I shall have 20 days from receipt of the answer to respond to the allegation.
3. The subject matter of this complaint is not pending in any court of law or administrative agency of this State. I will advise the School Ethics Commission if I subsequently become aware that it is pending elsewhere.

Date: 7/19/21

Heather A. Henry  
Signature of Complainant

**CORNELIA LISA**  
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY  
Comm. # 50090896  
My Commission Expires 9/27/2023

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

**Notice:** All final decisions issued in connection with complaints that come before the School Ethics Commission for review and determination are public records uniformly posted on the Department of Education's website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/legal/>. As a general rule, selective requests to remove a particular decision for reasons of personal preference are not entertained.

**Re: Ethics Question - re VT stadium vote**

Heather Henry [REDACTED]

Thu 6/17/2021 11:27 AM

To: Matthew Perrapato &lt;perrapato.matthew@wwrsd.org&gt;

Cc: Ray Gonzalez &lt;ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org&gt;

Good morning,

You may want to go over the ethics part and not speaking individually to people on board matters outside a meeting to Mrs. Munson as she continues to promote one side of this issue on a public Facebook page encouraging alumni to email you all. I'm disheartened by the dialogue she seems to be encouraging off her original post alerting all alumni to this upcoming vote. I don't think it's appropriate or fair to be honest but maybe it is. Posting she will "private message" someone on the issue is completely unethical IMO. Below is her original post and a particular interaction I take exception to. This whole thing has been blown out of proportion, it's been dragged on, Vito would be very upset to know he is being talked about in this manner. I'm just really disgusted with so many people's behavior. Please address this concern - She should recuse herself from voting.

Thank you,  
Heather Henry

3:59

LTE



Stacey's Post



**Westwood High School (NJ) Alumni**  
- westwoodalumni.com

Stacey Price Munson · 6d ·

**UPDATED:**

The Westwood Board of Education is planning a public hearing on Monday, June 21st on the application to name the high school football field in honor of Vito Trause. The meeting will be at 7pm in the Cambell Auditorium.

Whether or not you are in favor of this naming, please attend and have your voice heard!

If you are unable to attend/speak at the meeting, please email the Board of Education with your position.

Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org,  
AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org,  
Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org,  
Hanlon.Roberta@wwrsd.org,  
Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org,  
Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org,  
Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org,



Write a comment...



8:36

LTE



Stacey's Post



incorrect. Please email the  
board and speak at the meet  
to have your voice heard.

6d Like Reply



**Nancy Ciccaglione DeAngelo**  
[Catherine Ricks Kant](#)  
Cardinal Field

6d Like Reply

3  



**Catherine Ricks Kant**

Sorry but..NOT incorrect. And I believe it should be relatively insignificant issue for the BOE. They should be concerned with education decisions rather than optics. But of course they need to be concerned about their own reelection

5d Like Reply



**Stacey Price Munson**  
[Catherine Ricks Kant](#) I sent you a FB PM

Rules



Write a public comment...   



8:36

LTE



Stacey's Post



**Catherine Ricks Kant**

Does anyone really think the Board of Ed is going to listen to the public and then decide? It's already decided behind closed doors. It's always everywhere politics and nothing else. Cynical and sad but true. But I still vote for Cardinal field. There are too many equally deserving individuals, to choose just one person to honor.

6d Like Reply

4   



**Christine Adams**

[Catherine Ricks Kant](#) Not enough of us WRITE, EMAIL, CALL or whatever it takes!

6d Like Reply



**Stacey Price Munson**

[Catherine Ricks Kant](#) that is

**2nd Request re Ethics Violation**

Heather Henry &lt;ha\_henry@msn.com&gt;

Mon 6/28/2021 2:48 PM

To: Matthew Perrapato &lt;perrapato.matthew@wwrsd.org&gt;; Ray Gonzalez &lt;ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org&gt;

Cc: rhara@fogartyandhara.com &lt;rhara@fogartyandhara.com&gt;

Bcc: Rich Poggi [REDACTED]

6 attachments (1 MB)

munson continued convo against.jpg; hanlon admin on WWHS FB.jpg; Munson misleading post.jpg; munson pm message.jpg; munson encouraging letters - emails.jpg; Munson stating her opinion - vote.jpg;

Dear Mr. Perrapato and Dr. Gonzalez,

I am writing to follow up with you both today as I did not receive a response regarding my serious concerns as to the impropriety and possible ethics violation of at least one board member if not two. It has come to my attention this question and concern was also communicated to you by James Stickel who submitted the application for the stadium bleachers to be named after Mr. Vito Trause, prior to your vote but also went without a response.

Please explain how it is appropriate for a Board member to post incorrect information regarding a vote on a public social media platform (Westwood High school Alumni page on Facebook), that invoked inflammatory responses to a supposed vote on a field naming vs an actual vote on the stadium bleachers naming. This caused confusion among a population most of whom no longer live in our district, who were encouraged by said board member to write emails and call. It also caused some to publicly hurl insults at Mr. Trause by those who did not know him which was upsetting for his family to say the least.

How is it that you worked on revising the district's policy for so long as to allow the inclusion of such an individual as Mr. Trause, but some of you voted against it in the end. If your decisions were swayed by the responses invoked by this board member's post and encouragement for people who don't even live in our district anymore, then they should be discounted in my opinion.

Posting that this vote was for the naming of the field (instead of as the application stated the stadium bleachers) in a place none of us who had worked so hard to come to this point would see it as we are not alumni, was clearly an effort to tamper with the outcome of the vote by promoting and encouraging responses against the application.

Ethically a board member should not be speaking on matters like this one that was before the board publicly. unless it is in front of the entire board. Mrs. Munson engaged in conversation with the public on this matter and expressed her feelings and what her vote would be BEFORE the actual vote.

In addition, I would expect another board member (Mrs. Hanlon) who is the administrator on the WWHS Alumni Facebook page in question to correct her fellow board member's behavior or at the very least mention it to the board president so he may correct it. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hanlon did neither and by her inaction allowed this behavior to continue.

Apparently, there is no accountability. If those of us in favor of the application truly wanted to, we could have easily filled the auditorium with students and many more residents who were in favor of naming the stadium after Mr. Trause. We didn't think that was necessary, we didn't want to turn it into a circus

and dishonor Mr. Trause as we felt the petition James created should have shown the board where the decades of students and community members Vito affected stood on its own merit.

I respectfully request you investigate these allegations and come to the conclusion that vote should be nullified due to the impropriety and violation of the [Code of Ethics for School Board Members 18A:12-24.1](#). It is important all board members know and understand what transpired behind the scenes in this case prior to the vote and why they may have received so much correspondence. A board member intentionally trying to sway public opinion is not acceptable.

I have attached additional screen shots as evidence of my statements above. Please have the courtesy to reply.

Thank you,  
Heather A. Henry

\* only response to  
2nd email

Re: 2nd Request re Ethics Violation

Ray Gonzalez <ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org>

Tue 6/29/2021 11:21 AM

To: Heather Henry [REDACTED]

Cc: Matthew Perrapato <perrapato.matthew@wwrsd.org>; rhara@fogartyandhara.com <rhara@fogartyandhara.com>; Jill Mortimer <jill.mortimer@wwrsd.org>

Good morning Mrs. Henry,

Thank you for your email and for sharing your concerns. The NJ School Ethics Commission is the body that receives complaints regarding possible violations of the school ethics act. You can find information about the SEC and how to file a complaint at <https://www.nj.gov/education/ethics/>

Regards,

Raymond A. Gonzalez, Ed.D.

**Superintendent of Schools**



**WESTWOOD REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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*NOTICE: This email message, including any attachment(s), is for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain confidential and privileged information. In addition, emails may be subject to disclosure under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and/or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.*

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On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 2:48 PM Heather Henry [REDACTED] wrote:  
Dear Mr. Perrapato and Dr. Gonzalez,

I am writing to follow up with you both today as I did not receive a response regarding my serious concerns as to the impropriety and possible ethics violation of at least one board member if not two. It has come to my attention this question and concern was also communicated to you by James Stickel who submitted the application for the stadium bleachers to be named after Mr. Vito Trause, prior to your vote but also went without a response.

Please explain how it is appropriate for a Board member to post incorrect information regarding a vote on a public social media platform (Westwood High school Alumni page on Facebook), that invoked inflammatory responses to a supposed vote on a field naming vs an actual vote on the stadium bleachers naming. This caused confusion among a population most of whom no longer live in our district, who were encouraged by said board member to write emails and call. It also caused some to publicly hurl insults at Mr. Trause by those who did not know him which was upsetting for his family to say the least.

How is it that you worked on revising the district's policy for so long as to allow the inclusion of such an individual as Mr. Trause, but some of you voted against it in the end. If your decisions were swayed

by the responses invoked by this board member's post and encouragement for people who don't even live in our district anymore, then they should be discounted in my opinion.

Posting that this vote was for the naming of the field (instead of as the application stated the stadium bleachers) in a place none of us who had worked so hard to come to this point would see it as we are not alumni, was clearly an effort to tamper with the outcome of the vote by promoting and encouraging responses against the application.

Ethically a board member should not be speaking on matters like this one that was before the board publicly. unless it is in front of the entire board. Mrs. Munson engaged in conversation with the public on this matter and expressed her feelings and what her vote would be BEFORE the actual vote.

In addition, I would expect another board member (Mrs. Hanlon) who is the administrator on the WWHS Alumni Facebook page in question to correct her fellow board member's behavior or at the very least mention it to the board president so he may correct it. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hanlon did neither and by her inaction allowed this behavior to continue.

Apparently, there is no accountability. If those of us in favor of the application truly wanted to, we could have easily filled the auditorium with students and many more residents who were in favor of naming the stadium after Mr. Trause. We didn't think that was necessary, we didn't want to turn it into a circus and dishonor Mr. Trause as we felt the petition James created should have shown the board where the decades of students and community members Vito affected stood on its own merit.

I respectfully request you investigate these allegations and come to the conclusion that vote should be nullified due to the impropriety and violation of the [Code of Ethics for School Board Members 18A:12-24.1](#). It is important all board members know and understand what transpired behind the scenes in this case prior to the vote and why they may have received so much correspondence. A board member intentionally trying to sway public opinion is not acceptable.

I have attached additional screen shots as evidence of my statements above. Please have the courtesy to reply.

Thank you,  
Heather A. Henry



## School and Facilities Naming Application\*

Pursuant to Westwood Regional Board of Education Policy 7250, "School buildings and separate school facilities, both on school grounds and within school buildings, shall be named only by formal action of the Board of Education. In naming schools and facilities, the Board shall strive to honor the traditions and high ideals of this district and the community it serves.

A school building or school facility may be named to memorialize the outstanding service of a school district employee or a member of the community who has a connection to the school district and has served as a role model in some capacity."

The naming of a school or facility is at the sole discretion of the Board, with the consent of the named party or their legal representative. To be considered, the naming application must be completed in its entirety by a resident of the Westwood Regional School community and submitted to the Westwood Regional School District as described at the end of this form.

*\*This application does not apply to the installation of commemorative plaques on or near objects, plantings or interior spaces.*

### NAMING REQUEST

Facility to be named: Westwood Regional High School Stadium School: High School

Recommended name for consideration: Vito P. Trause Memorial Stadium

The name to be considered is based on the following categories (check all that apply):

- ☒ The person has made significant contributions to the District and whose virtues or characteristics will serve as role models to students, staff and the community.
- Contributions should be commensurately related to the building, space, or facility proposed for naming.
  - Contributions or service may have been through employment, volunteer service, board service, or through significant support to the School District.
- ☐ The person was employed by the District, or held office in the District, gave extraordinary service to the District in a teaching or administrative field with such exceptional distinction that his or her contributions are widely recognized by his or her peers, both in the district and elsewhere.
- ☒ The person made significant contributions to public education or made some significant connection with the District either as a student, an alumnus, a staff member, an administrator, or a supporter.
- ☒ The person made substantial contributions to his or her field of endeavor or to society in general. A facility may be named for a member of the District's Board of Education who made significant contributions during his or her term.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The individual for whom the nomination is submitted:

YES ☐ NO ☒ Was a district employee

If YES, provide the dates (MM/YY) and positions of employment.

YES ☐ NO ☒ Was a student

If YES, provide the dates (MM/YY) and schools attended.

YES ☐ NO ☒ Was a member of the Board of Education

If YES, provide the dates (MM/YY) served on the Board of Education.

YES ☐ NO ☒ Has been deceased for at least 36 months

YES ☐ NO ☒ Were any monetary contributions made "in memoriam" for the Individual?

If YES, what was the date, amount, and purpose for the contribution?

YES ☐ NO ☒ Are there any other memorials, District facilities or portions of a facility already named for the individual?

If YES, please describe.

YES ☐ NO ☒ Are there any other memorials, municipal facilities or portions of a municipal facility already named for the individual?

If YES, please describe.

#### Biographical Information of Nominee:

Vito Trause was born on July 19, 1925, in Clarksville, NJ. Trause attended East Rutherford High School, now Becton Regional, where he played football 1941-43. He scored a touchdown against Lyndhurst in his final game and joined the U.S. Army by the end of the following week. While serving as a front-line scout for six months, Trause was captured on Sept. 24, 1944, and imprisoned at Stalag VII outside Munich. He spent five months of what would have been his high school senior year as a prisoner of war. Liberated by American forces on May 2, 1945, PFC, Trause undertook a six-day trip to Paris, where he remained two weeks at the end of the war before repatriating. In all, he received the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the European, African, and Middle East Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars. Trause moved to the Township of Washington in 1967 and became an avid supporter of Westwood High School's athletic teams. Vito was known as Westwood High School's #1 Fan attending both home and away games in every sport for several decades. His dedication towards the student-athletes of Westwood High School was unmatched. Vito was an active member of the community, belonging to the Knights of Columbus Council 5427, Golden Seniors, and VFW Post 5192. He was also a parishioner at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Sadly, Vito passed away on October 31, 2010, at the age of 84.

#### VALUE STATEMENTS

Value to students: Describe how students will benefit if the Board selects the proposed school/facility name you proposed.

The students of the Westwood Regional School District will benefit from this selection as he was a role model for thousands of students who attended Westwood Schools, dating all the way back to the 1960s. Vito as our #1 Fan truly exemplified Cardinal Pride and school spirit. He always rooted for the Westwood student-athletes and would talk with them about their performances when he saw them at David's Bagels in the morning. Students basked in his war stories and a lifetime of wisdom in their classrooms, where he was invited to mentor. He had a lot of respect for children which is why he supported them so passionately, encouraging them to work hard in all they do and value their education so they could make a difference in the future. By displaying Vito's name above the press box at the stadium it will serve as a reminder to current and future students to work hard, play hard, and embody Cardinal Pride!

Value to education: Describe any significant public service the individual performed for the advancement of public education.

Vito Trause was an active member of the community who educated citizens and children in the town by telling stories about his military service. Vito was always a friendly face for people to talk to at David's Bagels or could be found at town gatherings such as Memorial Day. Vito also gave talks at schools, with scout groups, and many other youth community groups. He always stressed the importance of Memorial Day and educating people that it is to honor the men and women we lost serving our country, as it is commonly confused with Veterans Day. Vito truly valued education since he forfeited his senior year of high school, missing out on receiving his diploma. It was not until 73 years later when he was honored at Becton Regional's commencement ceremony and received the diploma he deserved. Additionally, the Vito Trause Memorial Charitable Fund was created in his honor, offering the Friday Night Lights scholarship. This scholarship helps students learn about the extraordinary life of everyone's pal, Vito Trause as it celebrates one of his most cherished activities, attending Friday Night Lights at Westwood Regional, which showcases all that is good in our extended Cardinals community.

Value to the school community: Describe any significant civic contributions made by the Individual school community.

Vito Trause was the #1 Fan of Westwood Regional High School Athletics. For several decades, Vito attended all sporting events. He attended both home and away games, Freshman, JV, and Varsity games of all sports, and the weather never stopped him from attending these games. He supported all Westwood High School student-athletes, regardless of what sport they played. He always intently watched the cheerleaders and the marching band during their pregame or halftime performances. He even attended the plays and musicals put on by the Woodington Players Student Theatre group. On his 90th birthday, the team, the cheerleaders, and most of the student body turned out with balloons and banners at his parade through town. During his funeral procession, hundreds of students gave up their lunch period as they lined the circle in front of the high school, in silence, to pay their respects to their pal, Vito. Vito truly built a community that supported the student-athletes playing on the field which is evident by how many people show up to our sporting events each and every week.

Please provide an impact statement explaining why a facility, school, or portion thereof should be named after this person

Vito Trause lived an exemplary life of leadership and mentoring, replete with admirable acts and good deeds leaving a legacy worthy of recognition and honor. He is more than deserving of having the stadium named after him due to his overwhelming support for student-athletes of all sports and levels. Vito's friendly character, vibrant personality, presence at athletic competitions, and devotion to our community all make him worthy of this honor. He clearly has impacted so many already as there was an outpouring of love and respect for Vito that was evident at his wake, which was moved from Becker Funeral Home to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church to accommodate over 2,500 mourners, many of whom were former and current Cardinal students who waited in line for hours to pay their final respects and thank him for coming to their games and supporting them. Naming the field after Vito will have a profound impact on the students, staff members, and the community as a whole as they will be able to see their pal's name above the press box and reflect on their positive interactions with Vito. Naming the field after Vito is a unique opportunity for the Board of Education as there will never be another opportunity to honor such an accomplished and meaningful person to the students of Westwood High School. Vito is a positive role model and his legacy should live on for future generations.

#### FAMILY PERMISSION

All efforts should be made to contact the family of the nominee in order to allow for use of the name if approved.

Family Member Name (please print): Cynthia Trause

Address: [REDACTED] Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Phone #: [REDACTED] Email address: [REDACTED]

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Name (please print): James Stickel

Address: [REDACTED] Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Phone #: [REDACTED] Email address: [REDACTED]

By signing this application, I acknowledge the following:

- I am authorized to make this request on behalf of the Individual or Individual's representatives identified above
- The information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge;
- I am familiar with the Facilities Naming Policy 7250 and associated Regulation; and
- The decision whether to grant this request rests entirely with the Westwood Regional Board of Education; and
- that any "in memoriam" contributions made on behalf of the Individual for whom a Naming Right is sought provide no guarantee that a Naming Right will be granted.

Signature:

James Stickel

Date:

2/19/2021

Nomination forms will only be accepted if all required sections are complete and are submitted via:

Mail : Facilities Naming Nomination  
c/o Westwood Regional Board of Education  
701 Ridgewood Road  
Township of Washington, NJ, 07676

Email to:

keith.rosado@wwrsd.org

Subject: Facilities Naming Nomination

**Fwd: Vito Trause Stadium Naming Public Hearing Date**

Mary Ellen Stickel [REDACTED]

Thu 7/15/2021 1:58 PM

To: Heather Henry [REDACTED]

Hi Heather,

This is the first email James sent

Alerting them that Stacey Price (aka Stacey Price Munson) needs to cease her fb activity.

Mary Ellen Stickel

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** James Stickel [REDACTED]

**Date:** July 15, 2021 at 1:04:36 PM EDT

**To:** MaryEllen Stickel [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Fwd: Vito Trause Stadium Naming Public Hearing Date

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Stickel** [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 3:40 PM

Subject: Re: Vito Trause Stadium Naming Public Hearing Date

To: Matthew Perrapato <[perrapato.matthew@wwrsd.org](mailto:perrapato.matthew@wwrsd.org)>

CC: Ray Gonzalez <[ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org](mailto:ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org)>, Keith Rosado <[keith.rosado@wwrsd.org](mailto:keith.rosado@wwrsd.org)>

Hello Mr. Perrapato, Dr. Gonzalez, and Mr. Rosado,

I was just wondering if it is true that the Vito Trause Stadium Naming Hearing will be held on Monday, June 21, 2021. I know you told me that I would be notified as to when it would take place. It now appears that Ms. Price is advertising the meeting on behalf of the Board of Education on Facebook. Is this meeting happening or not? Is it really appropriate for BOE members to be spreading these rumors without this formally being announced by the Board Secretary, Superintendent, or President? I'm not sure if this is appropriate based on policy 0169.02- BOARD MEMBER USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS. If I am indeed correct that this is not appropriate conduct for BOE members I believe it is your responsibility to tell Ms. Price to cease this activity based on what it says in the policy here, "If the Board or Superintendent believes a Board member's activity on any social network may violate the Board's policies or the New Jersey School Ethics Act, the Board or Superintendent may request the Board member cease such activity"

Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,  
James Stickel

Fwd: Ethical Misconduct, Predetermined Votes, Pointless Public Hearing

Mary Ellen Stickel [REDACTED]

Thu 7/15/2021 2:13 PM

To: Heather Henry [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** James Stickel [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 15, 2021 at 2:01:30 PM EDT  
**To:** MaryEllen Stickel [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ethical Misconduct, Predetermined Votes, Pointless Public Hearing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Stickel** [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Jun 23, 2021 at 1:29 PM  
Subject: Re: Ethical Misconduct, Predetermined Votes, Pointless Public Hearing  
To: Stacey Price <[price.stacey@wwrsd.org](mailto:price.stacey@wwrsd.org)>  
CC: [Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org](mailto:Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org) <[Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org](mailto:Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org)>, Frank Romano <[Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org](mailto:Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org)>, [Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org) <[Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org)>, Joseph Abou-Daoud <[AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org](mailto:AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org)>, Keith Rosado <[keith.rosado@wwrsd.org](mailto:keith.rosado@wwrsd.org)>, Matthew Perrapato <[Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org)>, Michael Pontillo <[pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org](mailto:pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org)>, Michelle Sembler <[Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org](mailto:Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org)>, Ray Gonzalez <[ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org](mailto:ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org)>, [rhara@fogartyandhara.com](mailto:rhara@fogartyandhara.com) <[rhara@fogartyandhara.com](mailto:rhara@fogartyandhara.com)>

Ms. Price,

Thanks for reaching out!

I don't believe it is your role to post notice of the public hearing.

As per policy 7250, "the Board Secretary will post notice for a hearing to be held at a subsequent public meeting". That was not done until June 11th while you announced the meeting on Facebook on June 10th, on behalf of the district. Despite my multiple requests to be informed about the public hearing as the applicant, to this day I still never received the notice in the mail that was supposed to be sent to my residence.

Additionally, soliciting emails for the naming suggestions of the field was completely unwarranted and I believe you caused a lot of confusion to the public. Through your

actions, you undermined the purpose of having a public hearing in the first place. It simply would have been nice if you and the other no votes could've at least deliberated and explained why you voted "No" but you failed to do that and ultimately have compromised public trust as it appeared as if you and several other board members predetermined your votes. You even expressed that you were in favor of other names for the field on Facebook.

Please do better in the future.

Respectfully,  
James Stickel

On Wed, Jun 23, 2021 at 9:14 AM Stacey Price <[price.stacey@wwrsd.org](mailto:price.stacey@wwrsd.org)> wrote:

James,

To follow up on our conversation earlier this year and your email below, I stated in my email responding to your father, if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them. So please call me at your convenience.

To clarify my original posting of the board meeting, I read the information on a posting on Facebook by Mr. Kalish, verified the information with Mr. Rosado and I passed the information along on my personal page and several public pages for informational purposes. I then updated it when we were sure the meeting would be held in person.

I look forward to hearing from you

Respectfully,  
Stacey Price

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Stickel**

Date: Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 8:04 PM

Subject: Ethical Misconduct, Predetermined Votes, Pointless Public Hearing

To: [Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org](mailto:Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org) <[Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org](mailto:Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org)>, Frank Romano <[Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org](mailto:Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org)>, [Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org) <[Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org)>, Joseph Abou-Daoud <[AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org](mailto:AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org)>, Keith Rosado <[keith.rosado@wwrsd.org](mailto:keith.rosado@wwrsd.org)>, Matthew Perrapato <[Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org)>, Michael Pontillo <[pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org](mailto:pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org)>, Michelle Sembler <[Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org](mailto:Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org)>, Ray Gonzalez <[ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org](mailto:ray.gonzalez@wwrsd.org)>, [rhara@fogartyandhara.com](mailto:rhara@fogartyandhara.com) <[rhara@fogartyandhara.com](mailto:rhara@fogartyandhara.com)>

Good afternoon,

Hope you are doing well!

I am reaching out to inform you all of the unethical behavior that took place leading up to last night's hearing for the purpose of approving my application to name the High School Stadium after Vito P. Trause.

There are several ethical issues I would like to point out which I believe need to be addressed:

The first issue is that we had some Board of Education members and people from the administrative offices soliciting emails from people on naming suggestions for the high school football field. I see multiple problems with this. The first problem is the misuse of social media BOE members, Ms. Price and Mrs. Hanlon. The first instance of this was how notice was posted by Ms. Price on a Facebook group administered by Mrs. Hanlon on June 10th. I am confused as to why this was announced by a BOE member on behalf of the entire board before this information was on the WWRSD website or a local public notice was posted in the public record. It is also strange that, according to Mr. Rosado, there is no record of any emails for the purpose of planning the hearing. It's almost as if this was unilaterally decided by Ms. Price, forcing the school district to follow in announcing this hearing date. Here is the post by Ms. Price (this is a public record):

*June 10 at 2:55 pm*

*The Westwood Board of Education is planning a public hearing on Monday, June 21st on the application to name the high school football field in honor of Vito Trause. The meeting will be at 7 pm in the Cambell Auditorium.*

*Whether or not you are in favor of this naming, please attend and have your voice heard!*

*If you are unable to attend/speak at the meeting, please email the Board of Education with your position.*

*[Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org), [AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org](mailto:AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org),  
[Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org](mailto:Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org), [Hanlon.Roberta@wwrsd.org](mailto:Hanlon.Roberta@wwrsd.org),  
[Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org](mailto:Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org), [Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org](mailto:Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org),  
[Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org](mailto:Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org), [price.stacey@wwrsd.org](mailto:price.stacey@wwrsd.org), [pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org](mailto:pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org)*

Here is the notice put out by the district in the Bergen Record the day after:

*Friday, June 11, 2021*

*WESTWOOD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Public Hearing Meeting  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provision of the Open Public Meetings Law, the Westwood Regional Board of Education will be holding a Special Public Hearing Meeting for the purpose of the application received requesting that the Westwood Regional High School Stadium be named after Mr. Vito Trause on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Campbell Auditorium located at the Westwood Regional High School, [701 Ridgewood Road, Township of Washington, NJ](#). Please refer to the district website [www.wwrsd.org](http://www.wwrsd.org) the day of the meeting for details. The Record - June 11, 2021 Fee: \$11.25 (25) 0004773862*

The second issue I see here is that blatant misinformation was spread by these same BOE members who said that this meeting was about naming the field. As you know, my application was to name the stadium, not the field. Unfortunately, you allowed this

misinformation to spread too far which caused mass confusion amongst many of the people who probably emailed you putting in naming requests for the field. What I don't understand is why the administrator of this page, Mrs. Hanlon, allowed the open discussion of board business and misinformation to spread and Ms. Price openly engaged in discussion and expression as to what she would like to see the field named. Again, last night's hearing was not to name the field, but instead the stadium. It is unbelievable that those emails were used by the same BOE members who solicited them to vote against this initiative. This appears to be a significant conflict of interest. What's even more frustrating is some board members sat on the dais last night and said they were voting on the field. Clearly, many of you neglected to read the very application you were voting on.

3. The third issue I have is that one poster in Mrs. Hanlon's Facebook group said that the administrative offices suggested that people email naming suggestions for the field. See below:

*June 21 at 11:55 am*

*Keep in mind that the Board of Education meeting regarding the renaming of the Westwood Regional High School's athletic field will be held tonight at 7:00 pm. I've spoken with WRHS administrative offices and their suggestion was to send an email to EACH board member regarding your feelings/suggestions for naming the field.*

*If you are interested in voicing your opinion regarding the naming of Westwood Regional High School, emails should be directed to each of the board members today well before 7 pm. Here's the link to the members' email addresses*

*<https://sites.google.com/wwwrsd.org/boe>*

Does this mean that if people want to name the field they don't have to endure the same 18-month process members of our community have endured while trying to get the stadium named for Vito? It seems like you are not following the same procedure laid out in policy 7250 and instead are handling naming other facilities with a different process. As I expressed before, last night's meeting was for people to speak on behalf of Vito, not suggest other names for other facilities. Despite at least 90% of the attendees being in favor of the naming, somehow you came to the determination to vote it down with no explanation. I am sure you never received any emails in opposition to the stadium being named for Vito and not one person spoke poorly about Vito's character which is what the public hearing was all about. If you have any emails (the ones solicited by BOE members) in opposition to the stadium, please provide.

If you would like to see the ethical misconduct carried out by Mrs. Hanlon and Ms. Price on Facebook, you can probably just ask Mrs. Hanlon to admit you into that Facebook group since she is an admin or place an OPRA request with Mr. Rosado since these are all public records.

It really is a shame that at least 3 members made uniformed decisions last night and out of the 5 NO votes not one of you explained why you voted the way you did. Facts were presented clearly and there was overwhelming community support to name the stadium after Mr. Trause. There is simply no reason last night's vote shouldn't have been a unanimous YES.

The misinformation and email solicitation campaign by several board members and the administration was completely unwarranted and is a disgrace.

I just wish that my application could have had a fair hearing with no interference from BOE members who solicited emails and predetermined their votes. It's just unethical and wrong and ultimately much of the board has compromised public trust. As one board member said at the May meeting, "I'm not sure we can do much worse". Well you just did **MUCH WORSE** by failing to memorialize a true American Hero, Patriot, and WWRSD's #1 Fan!

I truly hope you take these concerns seriously and address them accordingly.

Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,  
James Stickel  
High School Student

## < Stacey Price Munson in Westwood High S...



**Stacey Price Munson**



Jun 10 · 🌐

UPDATED:

The Westwood Board of Education is planning a public hearing on Monday, June 21st on the application to name the high school football field in honor of Vito Trause. The meeting will be at 7pm in the Cambell Auditorium.

Whether or not you are in favor of this naming, please attend and have your voice heard!

If you are unable to attend/speak at the meeting, please email the Board of Education with your position.

Perrapato.Matthew@wwrsd.org,  
AbouDaoud.Joseph@wwrsd.org,  
Gerstmayr.Andrew@wwrsd.org,  
Hanlon.Roberta@wwrsd.org,  
Colombo.Maureen@wwrsd.org,  
Romano.Frank@wwrsd.org,  
Sembler.Michelle@wwrsd.org,  
price.stacey@wwrsd.org,  
[pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org](mailto:pontillo.michael@wwrsd.org)





Stacey's Post

**Lori Leung**

I also vote for Cardinal Field.  
Class of '77

3d Like Reply

3

**Stacey Price Munson**

Meeting information updated.  
Only 2 people have emailed there  
views on the field naming.

3d Like Reply

**Chris Tine**

If you have an opinion on the  
matter, I suggest that you email  
the BOE members to let them  
know how you feel.

I would hope that, if the field does  
get named after Vito Trause, that  
it is done because that is what  
the majority of people want, not  
because those that don't agree  
didn't voice their opinions.

Rules



Write a public comment...





Stacey's Post

**Stacey Price Munson****Thomas Verchot** agreed!

Ultimately we are all hopefully  
on the side of what is best for  
the students of the Westwood  
Regional School District ❤️

3d Like Reply

2

**Sharon Lammie Morgan**

**Thomas Verchot** How else  
would they be chosen for the  
board if not by vote? Anything  
else would be a club of like  
minded friends...

2d Like Reply



Write a reply...

**Lori Leung**

I also vote for Cardinal Field.  
Class of '77

3d Like Reply

3

**Stacey Price Munson**

Meeting information updated

Rules



Write a public comment...





Stacey's Post

**Catherine Ricks Kant**

Does anyone really think the Board of Ed is going to listen to the public and then decide? It's already decided behind closed doors. It's always everywhere politics and nothing else. Cynical and sad but true. But I still vote for Cardinal field. There are too many equally deserving individuals, to choose just one person to honor.

6d Like Reply

4

**Christine Adams**

[Catherine Ricks Kant](#) Not enough of us WRITE, EMAIL, CALL or whatever it takes!

6d Like Reply

**Stacey Price Munson**

[Catherine Ricks Kant](#) that is incorrect. Please email the board and speak at the meet to have your voice heard.

Rules



Write a public comment...





Stacey's Post



incorrect. Please email the board and speak at the meet to have your voice heard.

6d Like Reply



**Nancy Ciccaglione DeAngelo**

[Catherine Ricks Kant](#)

Cardinal Field

6d Like Reply

3



**Catherine Ricks Kant**

Sorry but..NOT incorrect. And I believe it should be relatively insignificant issue for the BOE. They should be concerned with education decisions rather than optics. But of course they need to be concerned about their own reelection

5d Like Reply



**Stacey Price Munson**

[Catherine Ricks Kant](#) I sent you a FB PM

Rules



Write a public comment...





Rene Franchino Lintz

Is there a petition to name it something else?

Like · Reply · Share · 1w

→ Timothy Vetcher replied · 7 Replies



Denice Barksdale

Eq

Like · Reply · Share · 1w



Denice Barksdale

Hqqqqqqgcccqpp tags

Like · Reply · Share · 1w



Stephen R. Nelson

That's it! Veteran's Memorial Field

Then get ALL the names on the Field and have a parade and and a big band concert at the Field every Memorial Day.

Like · Reply · Share · 1w



12

→ Joshua Baty replied · 9 Replies



Chris Topher

What if considering the current climate of everything going on, we just call it the "Westwood Regional High School Athletic Complex?" Do we really need to name the field after someone?

Like · Reply · Share · 1w



14



Christine Adams

**Chris** Topher I agree.

Like · Reply · Share · 1w



Chris Tine

Chris Topher



Like · Reply · Share · 1w



Stacey Price Munson

Chris Topher That would be my vote

Like · Reply · Share · 1w



1



# Westwood High School (NJ) Alumni - westwoodalumni.com

Public group · 2.4K members

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## Admins & Moderators · 3



Jeff Pickens



Jeffrey Siconolfi

Westfield Township, Bergen County, New Jersey

Add Friend



Roberta Kahn Hanlon

Westwood Regional High School

Add Friend

BOE Member →



## Suzanne's Post

**Lori Kalemkerian**

I dont agree with naming things after people or companies. I think Memorial Field is appropriate and should remain.

16w Like Reply



3

**Roberta Kahn Hanlon**

[Lori Kalemkerian](#) it's NOT memorial field that is the Town field. The high school field doesn't have a name

16w Like Reply



1

**LoriAnn Forkan Geimke**

[Roberta Kahn Hanlon](#) I'm cracking up at how many times you have to say not Memorial Field. God bless! 🙏

6w Like Reply



Write a reply...

**Stacey Price Munson**

Suzanne I think you should edit your post. The School district is discussing naming the field at the High school, not Memorial Field on Pascack.

16w Like Reply



2

**Suzanne M. Mullany**  
ok

16w Like Reply

Rules



Write a public comment...





## Suzanne's Post



All comments ▾

**Denise Ann**

What is wrong with keeping it as Memorial Field?

16w Like Reply



8

**Suzanne M. Mullany**

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, AND PERSONALLY, I AGREE!!!

16w Like Reply

**Stacey Price Munson**[Denise Ann](#) not Memorial field, Westwood HS field.

16w Like Reply



3

**Eileen Zaccaria Reif**[Denise Ann](#) sounds appropriate!

16w Like Reply

**Brenda Lyons**[Denise Ann](#) it's not Memorial. It's the field at the high school.

6w Like Reply



Write a reply...

**Roberta Kahn Hanlon** ★

The field currently has no name at the High School.

16w Like Reply

Rules



Write a public comment...





## Joan's Post



[27728419/53/permalink/10159260023089754/](#)

2d Like Reply



**Stacey Price Munson**

Only 2 emails so far from alum in reference to naming the field.

2d Like Reply



**Joanne McArdle Yates**

Cardinal represents the students in the years past and recent and all the students / teachers has passed away . I hope they consider this .

2d Like Reply



**Stacey Price Munson**

[Joanne McArdle Yates](#) email the board of ed.

2d Like Reply



**Joanne McArdle Yates**

[Stacey Price Munson](#) I will, it would be nice don't you think .

2d Like Reply



**Stacey Price Munson**

[Joanne McArdle Yates](#) yes!!!

2d Like Reply



Write a reply...

Rules



Write a comment...

