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Subject: [External Email]sad and disgusted

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"The more things change, the more they stay the same" was written by Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr in 1849, which in essence means that even with advancements or significant changes, fundamental aspects or patterns of life often remain constant. In other words, while superficial aspects might evolve, underlying realities can endure. (courtesy of Google AI) Or, for you baseball fans out there, "It's like Déjà vu, all over again," which is attributed to Yankee legend Yogi Berra.

We live in one of the greatest towns in the country, filled with wonderful people, organizations, and businesses. Our property values have all increased tremendously because people want to move here. The greatest asset that belongs to this town is the educational system. Every person who lives in this town is a shareholder in the Monroe schools. People want to move to growing towns with top-rated school systems. Top-rated school systems have well-run administrators who empower faculty and staff to enhance the total child learning experience. When my neighbors and I moved to Monroe 10 years ago, it was because Monroe was growing, and the school system was rapidly improving and quickly climbing up the rankings. We have all noticed that this progress has stopped, and instead of seeing improvements, all we see is constant infighting, and the last 3 years have seen the infighting continue to grow. I, for one, thought that after the last BOE elections, the infighting would surely stop, but it's clear it has gotten even worse.

Social media has been used to amplify these attacks, and it needs to stop now! The MEF had to sponsor a grant to teach children how to be mindful. How many of you board members realize that this current generation of children is the most anxious in history? **There have been countless studies showing that social media is traumatizing these children, yet the same people who are entrusted with Monroe's most valuable asset are behaving like teenagers in adult bodies who were rejected members of Mean Girls!**

Perception becomes reality, and this has become the perception of not only me, but a large majority of my friends and their friends who live in Monroe, or as I like to call them, "Team Monroe". For them, there is no Team Fabiano or Team Skurbe. I ask them why they don't want to speak out, and they tell me that they don't want any social media backlash. One of the reasons that I am writing today is to warn anyone who chooses to use social media to attack anyone else that they will be facing one of the strictest cyber harassment laws in the country, and apparently the jail time and fines increase significantly for each offense. For those who have committed these crimes, I would suggest you go hide under a rock right now, and remember that businesses got put out of business because of such actions.

I remember last year when it came time to renew Sean Dowling's contract, there was a great deal of outrage from the parents and the team that I supported because the board did not listen to the parents. I look at what is happening now in terms of the Woodland Elementary School principal, Dr. Orsolina Cetta. I have only watched a few videos, but I can tell you that the parents and the staff members who spoke in support of her displayed genuine appreciation for her work. It showed me that Dr. Cetta was definitely doing something right. Do you want to see how your staff felt about your decision? Watch the outrage from the video after you voted from staff members who have been there longer than many of you. Could she improve in certain areas, sure, but to be fair, there is not one person alive who does not have weaknesses. Good leadership is hard to find, but easy to improve. This takes partnership and a functional board.

To be fair, I have never met Dr. Cetta, but analytics show that for every person who speaks at any public forums, that person represents a minimum of 5 and up to 20 people, which means that the public support is still quite significant.

When I saw that individuals abstained from voting, the first thing that came to my mind was that this sounds like collusion. This is not how I imagine a functioning BOE would act; in fact, this sounds like a very winnable lawsuit for Dr. Cetta. **To be frank, my exact thoughts were "What on earth are they doing?"** Don't forget that I was involved enough to know who is behind a lot of this.

You were all voted to be independent thinkers who should vote how you see fit based on your own morals and your convictions. The least that you can all do is vote to approve Dr. Cetta's contract.

It pains me to say that as of now, I am genuinely sad and disgusted by what I have seen from people whom I placed my full support and confidence behind. Please do better and think before you act.

If any of you have any problems with what I said, please feel free to stop by at 10 Belmont Court and we will have a conversation (like adults) and we can discuss our differences.

Sincerely,
Surendra Vallabhaneni