

All,

She didn't address the fact that the termination decision was made and communicated long before Cahall's post facto interview, which clearly was an attempt at a procedural fig leaf to try to cleanse the earlier irregularities.

On 7/8/08 8:32 AM, "Siegler, Ellen <TSA OCC>" <Ellen.Siegler@dhs.gov> wrote:

All:

Pasted below is my latest frustrating exchange w/ Michelle Rhee. I doubt it will have any effect.

Dear Ms. Rhee,

I am sure your response is not intended to suggest that you allow principals to dismiss whoever they like, regardless of the reasons or the procedures employed. That would be an abdication of your role as manager. For example, if the principal were to dismiss all teachers with blue eyes, giving them no reasons or due process to rebut the charges, I would certainly hope you would step in. In this case, there appear to be substantive and procedural deficiencies that warrant an inquiry on your part. If Dr. Siebens were to pursue legal action, and to be successful, that result could undermine much of the good work that has been done to remove teachers and administrators that truly should have been dismissed. Note that I have no information that Dr. Siebens plans legal action, but as an attorney I am in the habit of considering these issues.

Ellen Siegler
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(571) 227-2723

From: Rhee, Michelle (OOC) [<mailto:Michelle.Rhee@dc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2008 3:17 PM
To: Ross, Jeff R. (OOC)
Cc: Siegler, Ellen
Subject: RE: Ellen Siegler -- From IQ

Ms Siegler-

I am supporting Principal Cahall's decision. If we are going to hold

principals accountable for results they have to have the appropriate authority and autonomy.

MR

Ellen Siegler
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From: Art Siebens [<mailto:drart@erols.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 7:17 PM
To: Sarah Whitener; Paul Mahon; Mary Giffin; Margot Berkey; John Lawrence; Joe Riener; Jeanie Wogaman; James Leonard; Feldmann, Linda (Wash. D.C.); Erich Martel; Ellen Siegler; Chuck Samuels; Charles Turner; Cathy Reilly; Abby Allen; Mark Simon; Kerry Sylvia
Cc: George Parker; Mary Collins
Subject: 2007 AP scores

Supporters-

Chancellor Rhee keeps talking about data-driven decisions. Here is data that I would find difficult to ignore if I were in her or Mr. Cahall's position.

Attached is spreadsheet of 2007 AP scores from the College Board, with 5 being the highest score. I didn't know this spreadsheet existed until I called the College Board today. Scores of my students compared to all students in public schools (DCPS) were as follows for AP Biology: 17 of 17 5's, 14 of 15 4's, 10 of 11 3's, 11 of 17 2's, 2 out of 67 1's. Thus, I taught all but 2 of the 43 students in DCPS who earned a 3 or more on the AP biology exam in 2007. One student earned a 4, one earned a 3 somewhere else in DCPS. 65% of the students who earned 2's in DCPS (i.e., learned a substantial amount, but not enough for college advanced placement) were taught by me at Wilson. In contrast, only 3% of the students at Wilson earned 1's, which can be earned by simply taking the test with no knowledge of biology at all.

I do not understand how it can be justified for me to not be rehired.

Why would Chancellor Rhee and Mr. Cahall conclude that this level of performance "does not fit" at Wilson and somehow undermines AYP in 10th graders that I do not teach?

I have not yet received the letter from Mr. Cahall that he told me would be mailed on Friday 6/27 or written documentation for why I am being involuntarily transferred from Wilson. This documentation is required in the Washington Teachers' Union Contract.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Art Siebens