

Monica BaxleyOrtega - Green/McCoy 8.21.14 - Request for Records

From: Teddy Dumlao
To: Monica BaxleyOrtega
Date: 8/22/2014 11:12 PM
Subject: Green/McCoy 8.21.14 - Request for Records
CC: Tracy Taylor

District Response

Here is the letter that you requested.

>>> Teddy Dumlao <Teddy.Dumlao@gilbertschools.net> 08/13/14 7:27 PM >>>
 Hi Suzy,

I should first define the terms of ratification and approval. These terms are used to describe transactions that have taken place or will take place. The board can only ratify an action that has taken place in the past and it relates to actions that would ordinarily have required board approval before being done. By ratifying an action the board is basically giving retrospective board approval for that action.

Originally the reports were prepared about a week before the board meeting to ratify the vouchers. For the practical sake of conducting business in a timely manner the board has authorized administration as an agent on its behalf to perform actions. These actions are then presented for review and ratification formalizes the approval.

When the superintendent took over she wanted to allow more time for review before ratification so although the reports were ready for the July 8th meeting, she asked us to delay the ratification until the following meeting on the 22nd. So we took it down and then put the reports back up on July 9th.

It is fairly obvious that the vouchers were eventually ratified when you look at the agenda for the July 22nd meeting. I've attached the agenda below from board docs.

Meeting

Jul 22, 2014 - Board Meeting

Category

Consent Agenda Items (Items for Consideration, Discussion, Direction and Possible Approval)

Subject

Approval of Financial Vouchers

Type

Action (Consent)

Recommended
 Action

It is recommended the Governing Board approve payment vouchers as follows:

Expense Voucher Number V4218- V4226	\$1,626,260.00
Expense Voucher Number V4227-V4228	\$1,943,452.99
Expense Voucher Number V5000-V5001	\$ 63,351.88
Payroll Voucher Number 93,231	\$3,205,501.07
Payroll Voucher Number 93,273	\$1,025,986.94

[View Vouchers 4218-4226](#)

[View Vouchers 4227-4228](#)

[View Vouchers 5000-5001](#)

The vouchers on the website are presented with a projected date of ratification. Otherwise we would have to wait until after the board meeting to present the vouchers. And if we did that it would defeat the whole purpose of presenting the vouchers for public review BEFORE ratification. I apologize for the confusion and assumptions made by some who feel that somehow the data was modified to be different. The modification date refers to when the report was rerun for the website.

In regards to the travel reimbursements the object code field clearly states the reason for the expenditure. Every year administrators are required to sign a form that states that they will accept this amount in lieu of submitting additional miles for reimbursement. The expectation is that in the course of doing business throughout the year Administrators generally travel during work hours. And over the course of the year the miles that would be claimed would be in excess of the \$350. Those that do not sign the form do not receive this money and they would have to collect and submit miles for every trip taken during the year. I would not necessarily categorize these as stipends. This is an arrangement to minimize the administration of mass submissions of mileage reimbursements.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. And thank you for your interest and passion in understanding and improving community understanding of school finance. Your attention is very much appreciated.

Thanks,
Teddy

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2014, at 4:37 PM, "Suzy Horvath" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

<!--[if mso 9]--> <!--[endif]-->
Thank you!

From: Teddy Dumlao [mailto:Teddy.Dumlao@gilbertschools.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 4:26 PM
To: Suzy Horvath
Cc: Tracy Taylor
Subject: Re: Westie

Thanks for the heads up.... I will try to call tomorrow. Its hard to get a hold of me but dont give up. My assistant will help me get a hold of you.

Teddy Dumlao

Director of Finance
 Gilbert Public Schools
 140 S. Gilbert Rd.
 Gilbert AZ, 85296
 Phone: (480) 497-3452
 Fax: (480) 497-3450
Teddy.Dumlao@gilbertschools.net
www.gilbertschools.net

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>>> "Suzy Horvath" <[REDACTED]> 8/13/2014 4:15 PM >>>

Hi Teddy,

I am sorry to email you this, but I felt that I should talk to you about the latest allegation/posting made by Westie. In short, I would love to get your response to these allegations. My hope is to correct any false information as it is reported to be fact. I am not sure where they seem to be getting their information from, but I wanted to go straight to the source. They are claiming lack of ratification for these expenses, gas stipends and employees listed as vendors.

Please see the excerpts from their post below:

"Before anyone says, "But the Governing Board authorized those expenditures," we have some more revelations about this shenanigan. The web page where GPS Business Services links to these Excel spreadsheets (and touts their transparency) attempts to provide cover for some of the nefarious stunts needed to pull off this gift of public funds to 100 selected GPS employees. The spreadsheet for the data is titled, "Paid through June 25, 2014 for ratification on July 8, 2014. Vouchers 4218-4226.xlsx, 330.80 KB. (Last Modified on July 9, 2014.) You can see the spreadsheet for yourself by clicking the link.

What's important is that the GPS Governing Board DID NOT RATIFY those expenses in the July 8, 2014 board meeting. As far as we can tell, even if GPS intended for the board to approve expenditures, that approval was not on the agenda and it was not mentioned in the minutes of that meeting. Business as usual for the GOBs, right? There's more, you know.

Even if the Governing Board had approved the expenditures as the spreadsheet link would have you believe, the spreadsheet was altered AFTER the July 8, 2014 meeting. Even if, and it's a big IF, the Governing Board was given the Excel spreadsheet for the express purpose of approving GPS expenditures, there is no way to know what information they were given, once the spreadsheet was changed AFTER the board meeting. It's annotated right there on the Business Services web page, and it's also shown on the document properties for the spreadsheet."

Essentially, I am looking for the answers to the ratification question due to the legalities also, just clarification as to why the employees are listed as vendors. I am familiar with the Stipends, just

can't remember how it was listed on the green bars. This is not their entire post, but I sent what I thought addressed the issues. Can you please share with me what you know regarding this, so we can answer these questions? I am familiar with stipends being paid out over time, like the gas stipend could be spread out, or in terms of Coaching/etc. they were paid at the start or end of their season. In terms of Contracts with the Superintendentcy, it is the Board that outlines the parameters of their contracts and everything that is stipulated within their contracts is approved at the time it goes on the Board agenda.

Please feel free to call me with any questions,

Suzy Horvath

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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