

Phillip Kramer

From: Pietrucha, Shirley [spietrucha@franklinboe.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 3:19 PM
To: info@betuf.org
Subject: FW: Issue with budget documents

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Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 3:19 PM
To: 'Councilman.Kramer@twp.franklin.nj.us'
Cc: 'Mayor.Levine@twp.franklin.nj.us'; 'Councilman.Glicklich@twp.franklin.nj.us'; 'Councilwoman.Sherman@twp.franklin.nj.us'; 'kenneth.daly@twp.franklin.nj.us'; Seto, Edward; Calavano, John; Andrew Holzheimer; Brown, Teletha A.; David Burns; Jean Bernstein; Nagy, Eva; Nancy LaCorte; Phyllis Beals (External); Pietrucha, Shirley; Richard Arline
Subject: Issue with budget documents

Dear Councilman Kramer;

I need to bring to your attention a situation that occurred yesterday. Yesterday morning I received a phone call from a mother of a kindergarten student who was very upset. One of the area learning centers had written a letter to all parents advising them that Franklin would not be having kindergarten classes in the fall. They were told that if the parent wanted the child enrolled in the classes at their facility in the autumn, they needed to make that decision yesterday. The mother was angry, frustrated and confused because she had just enrolled the child for Franklin kindergarten on Saturday.

I explained to the mother that we were compiling information on the cost of all programs because of the expected reduction in funds from the state. No decisions have been made at this point in time. Final decisions will be made after the Governor's message on the 16th. I then talked with the personnel at the center and learned they thought the information was factual because it was on the TUF website. They did not understand that the document that was posted was a working paper at a particular point in the process and interpreted it as an official decision that the BOE had made. Also, the truth is that kindergarten will not be cut if we can find other options.

Today I am continuing to hear confusion from members of the public because this document was posted on the TUF website. Some people are hearing that their own jobs are being eliminated, and groups of concerned parents are very upset that kindergarten has been cut.

We talked with our attorney before the public budget committee meeting. He is very clear that these work papers are not public documents. This is an area that was litigated in another township. The court ruled that these are work papers and although there is public discussion of their contents, the documents are not public documents.

Mr. Calavano provided you with the copies because you are a councilman and a member of the administrative oversight committee. It was a gesture of co-operation with the intention of providing you with information that would be helpful as we move forward with this process.

I know your intention was to be of service to the public, but actually there is harm being done to individuals, families and businesses. The public is not making a distinction between your role as a leader of TUF and your role as a councilman. Some are assuming that because the councilman has posted this information that it reflects decisions that have been made.

Mr. Calavano has been instructed not to release any more "work-paper" documents.

I would appreciate it very much if you would send an email to the TUF group and clarify that the documents that were posted are work-paper documents reflecting a report that was presented to the

Board by the administration. The documents have subsequently been revised and these revisions will continue for several weeks. They will become public documents on March 18th.

Thank you.

Shirley Y Pietrucha, President
Franklin Township Board of Education