

David W. Hann
Senate Republican Leader
147 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Office Phone: 651-296-1749



Senate

State of Minnesota

October 29, 2014

Dr. Bernadeia Johnson
Superintendent
Minneapolis Public Schools
1250 West Broadway Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear Dr. Johnson,

As you may know, my colleagues and I recently filed ethics complaints against Sen. Jeff Hayden and Sen. Bobby Joe Champion for their role in the Minneapolis School Board's contract with Community Standards Initiative (CSI). Specifically, we allege that Senators Hayden and Champion misused their power as legislators to unduly influence the \$375,000 contract to CSI.

The basis for our complaint is a StarTribune article dated September 12, 2014 (*North Side school effort called failure*), claiming Sen. Hayden and Sen. Champion "threatened to withhold state aid if Minneapolis school officials did not approve the contract." This quote was attributed to an unnamed source at the Minneapolis School Board.

In voting to defer our ethics complaints to a November 5, 2014 meeting, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct tasked me with seeking additional information about these allegations. Although the Subcommittee does have the power to issue subpoenas, they would prefer your voluntary cooperation at this time.

These senators have been charged publicly with a serious abuse of power, and it is important to them and the entire Minnesota State Senate that we find the truth.

In the spirit of cooperation and in the interest of holding these senators accountable or clearing their good names, I am asking for your help by answering the questions attached to this letter.

I, and the Ethics Subcommittee, appreciate your candid answers to these questions. We need your response before the next Subcommittee hearing on November 5, 2014.



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Committee: Rules and Administration
E-Mail: sen.david.hann@senate.mn

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I recognize the short time frame imposed by our Senate ethics subcommittee schedule. If you would prefer to meet in person or talk over the phone, please call my office at (651) 296-1749 so we can set up a meeting.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I look forward to getting this matter behind us so we can return to improving the lives of the people of Minnesota and the Minneapolis School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Hann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator David W. Hann
Senate Republican Leader

7. If so, how many times? Where and when did the conversations take place? What were the names of other individuals who participated in and/or heard the conversation(s)?

8. Did you have any conversations with the media about the CSI contract? If so, with who and what was said?

9. Is there anything else you would like to add concerning this incident?

Bernadeia Johnson
Superintendent

Subscribed to, and sworn before me, a notary public, on _____

Date Produced: October 29, 2014

The following is delivery confirmation for letters received by the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Letters addressed to:

Dr. Bernadeia Johnson

Mr. Michael Goar

Mr. Michael Thomas

Mr. Robert Doty

Mr. Steve Liss

Mr. Stan Alleyne

Ms. Adrienne Jordan

Mr. James Grathwol

Mr. Eric Moore

Mr. Richard Mammen

Ms. Jenny Arneson

Ms. Kim Ellison

Ms. Rebecca Gagnon

Mr. Alberto Monserrate

Ms. Tracine Asberry

Ms. Carla Bates

Mr. Josh Reimnitz

Mr. Mohamud Noor

Signature of Recipient: _____

Date/Time: _____

Address of Recipient: 1250 West Broadway Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55411