

Central Bucks School District
School Board Brief
February 6, 2025

At the February 6, 2025 Special Meeting of the School Board Meeting, the Central Bucks Board of School Directors:

Announced that the Board met in Executive Session on January 23, 2025 regarding potential litigation stemming from recent allegations of abuse at Jamison Elementary School.

Heard Public Comment: 1. Christy Callahan spoke about when Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski first reviewed the whistle-blower complaint, legal consequences of filing a Child Line report that doesn't contain all allegations of abuse, parents not being allowed to know what happened in the classroom, Facebook posts about Mr. Pepper, emails between Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski, about the whistle-blower complaints.

2. Lisa Sciscio spoke about what legal basis Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski had for curating complaint allegations, the District Attorney's office interactions with Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, Ms. Trawinski, Mr. Pepper, and parents of other classroom students, and about the district's secrecy of the Human Resources report.

3. Debra Cannon asked which lawyer was spoken to by Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski. Ms. Cannon asked about H/R reports regarding restraints used in the classroom, and about paid leaves for the classroom teacher and aide. Ms. Cannon spoke about an email from Dr. Yanni to Mr. Pepper. Ms. Cannon spoke about witness complaints about punishments and restraints. Ms. Cannon asked about legal consequences for not reporting student restraints.

4. Sadie Richardson spoke about Dr. Yanni telling Mr. Pepper that there were personality conflicts between classroom staff, Dr. Yanni curating allegations prior to submitting a Child Line report, a PDE investigation at Jamison Elementary School, and asked if Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, and Ms. Trawinski are trained child abuse investigators.

5. Daniel Grabianowski asked why the Special Education Department was excluded from the district investigation, why parents of children in the classroom weren't told about the whistle-blower's complaint, how long between the investigation and the submission of the Child Line report, why were students sent back to the classroom after the report was made, and why Mr. Pepper was told something different than what was told to Child Line. Mr. Grabianowski spoke about the Warwick Police and the District Attorney's office and asked what Board leadership was told by Dr. Yanni.

6. Mike Christiansen asked if there are any other child abuse allegations known by Dr. Yanni, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Freiling, or Ms. Trawinski that haven't been reported to Child Line. Mr. Christiansen asked if anyone would be fired by this Board if the new investigation reveals that there was a cover up of abuse of children.

7. Dave Elliott spoke about curated allegations and putting staff on paid leave pending the outcome of this investigation. Mr. Elliott read a statement from Mr. Pepper aloud.

8. Shannon Harris spoke about new investigation information that seems to rise to criminality, IEP oversight, Mr. Pepper being denied documentation about his own child, her support of the hiring of this firm, and asked why no one has been suspended.

9. Vonna DeArmond asked who this counsel is working for and if these attorneys are experts in child abuse, how insurance is working into this investigation, why there isn't a criminal investigation, why Children and Youth isn't investigating, why the head of Special Education isn't involved, why staff members involved aren't on paid leave, and asked where the media is.

10. Ed Mackouse spoke about male students and female teachers, children and puberty, how to better take care of children with autism, and having cooperation between parents, teachers, and children.

Discussed the purpose of the Special Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is for the Board to consider and approve the retention of outside counsel to provide legal services in connection with recent allegations of abuse at Jamison Elementary School.

Approved the Legal Services Agreement with Stock and Leader to provide legal services in connection with recent allegations of abuse at Jamison Elementary School.