

**Subject:** Importance of the School Principal Truthfulness

**From:** "Erdem A. Ural" <erdem.ural@lpsti.com>

**Date:** 1/22/2013 6:25 PM

**To:** David Barner <d\_barner@stoughtonschools.org>, I\_jardin@stoughtonschools.org, Faye Polillio <f\_polillio@stoughtonschools.org>, Heather Tucker <h\_tucker@stoughtonschools.org>, m\_mulvey@stoughtonschools.org, m\_morgan@stoughtonschools.org, Matthew Colantonio <m\_colantonio@STOUGHTONSCHOOLS.ORG>, j\_miller@stoughtonschools.org

**CC:** Marguerite Rizzi <m\_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org>

Dear Stoughton School Principals:

Thank you for the wonderful job you are doing. I am sending this note to heighten your sensitivity to being truthful in all your communications with the parents, press and schoolchildren.

I am writing this note because a Stoughton elementary school principal's response to a recent incident gave me deep concern.

The event started by a child bringing a toy BB handgun into the school on January 9th. Subject pistol shoots 6 mm BB's at a muzzle velocity of 85 to 200 ft/s (depending on where you look). The issue was reported to Stoughton Police (SPD) on January 10th. SPD recovered the gun the same day from the child's home, and discussed the matter with both the school principal and assistant principal. The child reported that she brought the gun to school to get back at a boy who threw her an ice ball on the 8th.

Concerned parents made me aware of the situation over the weekend. They were understandably upset because they heard a child was suspended because of the incident, yet the principal was still denying the incident.

Five hours after I inquired with the Superintendent's office, the school principal issued a reverse 911 call and broadcast the following email message: "It has come to our attention that parents have been concerned that a BB gun was brought into our school this past week. Please be assured that no such incident occurred. You would certainly have been informed had such an incident taken place. Thank you and have a great evening."

A lawyer or the Superintendent may argue that the elementary school principal's answer is technically not a lie. However, in my opinion, it was clearly not truthful.

Our school principals are in intimate contact with our children and parents. They need to instill trust. They need to set a better role model.

Sincerely Yours,

Erdem  
781-818-4114

> ----- Original Message -----

> Subject: RE: Fwd: RE: Gun in West School?

> From: <erdem.ural@lpsti.com>

> Date: Wed, January 16, 2013 5:57 pm

> To: "Marguerite Rizzi" <m\_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org>, "Deborah

> Sovinee" <d\_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org>, "George Dolinsky"

> <g\_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org>, "J Hussein"

> <j\_husseini@stoughtonschools.org>, "Thomas Colburn"

> <T\_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org>

>

>

> Maggie. I was not hopeful but I wanted to give you a chance to redeem

> yourself. I will pursue the matter through other means.

>  
> below is a paragraph from my evaluation of the superintendent:  
> I believe, Dr. Rizzi cannot be entrusted to provide the school committee  
> members the full and  
> complete disclosure of the issues. In my opinion, she tends to provide a  
> one-sided and barely  
> enough information for the school committee members to think the way she  
> wants. Things have  
> gotten a lot worse with the new School Committee Chair this year. I am  
> already on the record for  
> complaining to the superintendent for providing school committee members  
> meeting packets that  
> are too "skimpy." As an expert educational leader of the District,  
> the Superintendent's role is to  
> provide ample information so that the school committee members can weigh  
> pros and cons, and  
> make informed decisions, rather than blindly rubber-stamping the  
> superintendent's  
> recommendations.  
>  
> > ----- Original Message -----  
> > Subject: Fwd: RE: Gun in West School?  
> > From: "Marguerite Rizzi" <[m\\_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:m_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org)>  
> > Date: Wed, January 16, 2013 1:55 pm  
> > To: "Deborah Sovinee" <[d\\_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:d_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org)>, <[erdem.ural@lpsti.com](mailto:erdem.ural@lpsti.com)>, "George Dolinsky" <[g\\_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:g_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org)>, "J Husseini" <[j\\_husseini@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:j_husseini@stoughtonschools.org)>, "Thomas Colburn" <[T\\_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:T_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org)>  
> >  
> >  
> > Ladies and Gentlemen,  
> >  
> > When there is a matter that may or may not require disciplinary response,  
> > it is between the principal and the family of the student, and is not  
> > discussed outside of that context for reasons of confidentiality. There  
> > never was a weapon in the school, and the principal has quieted the rumor  
> > mill.  
> >  
> > Thank you  
> > Maggie  
> >  
> > ----- Original Message -----  
> >  
> > Maggie, you did not answer my original question. How was "the matter  
> > dealt with"?  
> >  
> > Erdem  
> >  
> > > ----- Original Message -----  
> > > Subject: West School Rumors  
> > > From: "Marguerite Rizzi" <[m\\_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:m_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org)>  
> > > Date: Mon, January 14, 2013 6:27 pm  
> > > To: "Deborah Sovinee" <[d\\_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:d_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org)>, <[erdem.ural@lpsti.com](mailto:erdem.ural@lpsti.com)>, "George Dolinsky" <[g\\_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:g_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org)>, "J Husseini" <[j\\_husseini@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:j_husseini@stoughtonschools.org)>, "Thomas Colburn" <[T\\_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:T_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org)>  
> > >  
> > >  
> > > Ladies and Gentlemen,  
> > >  
> > > There was never a gun in the West School. A girl brought a toy gun in

> > >her  
> > >> bag which was never viewed by any students. The matter was dealt with.  
> > >>  
> > >> Maggie  
> > >  
> > >  
> > >> ----- Original Message -----  
> > >> Subject: Gun in West School?  
> > >> From: <[erdem.ural@lpsti.com](mailto:erdem.ural@lpsti.com)>  
> > >> Date: Mon, January 14, 2013 9:42 am  
> > >> To: "Deborah Sovinee" <[d\\_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:d_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org)>, "George  
> > >> Dolinsky" <[g\\_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:g_dolinsky@stoughtonschools.org)>, "J Husseini"  
> > >> <[j\\_husseini@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:j_husseini@stoughtonschools.org)>, "Thomas Colburn"  
> > >> <[T\\_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:T_Colburn@stoughtonschools.org)>, "Marguerite Rizzi"  
> > >> <[m\\_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:m_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org)>  
> > >>  
> > >>  
> > >> Maggie:  
> > >>  
> > >> I am hearing rumors that a kid brought a gun into West School last week.  
> > >> Any truth to it? What happened?  
> > >>  
> > >> Erdem  
> > >  
> > >

— Attachments: —

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West School Incident 2013.pdf

2.8 MB