

Email Express
July 16, 2008

Dear Lovejoy Community,

I have been a part of the Lovejoy family for three years and I love serving this community. You send us wonderful children and you do everything in your power to partner with the school district and lift up the experience for each and every child. I regret that I feel compelled to send you this email, but I have learned that some members of this community have been circulating an email about me that is blatantly defamatory. During my three year tenure in LISD, I have experienced a group of four or five people that continue to display a deep lack of respect for me as an educator and for the work we are doing in Lovejoy ISD. I have worked diligently to build a bridge with this small band of people who appear to be invested in the failure of this district. Of the group that I have dealt with frequently only one of them has had children in Lovejoy ISD since I became superintendent. Many of you know that I value a healthy debate in the community about the best decisions to educate our children; I do not respect false information, innuendo, or a total disrespect for others who hold an opinion different from your own.

I have established a covenant with this community to develop an educational program that is second to none for each child. In order to succeed with that goal, we must develop a comprehensive program that will meet the needs for children with learning differences as well as for the best and brightest students that fill our classrooms. Our arts programs, our athletic programs, and our leadership programs must also be exemplary because for some children, those activities are the gateway to a successful future. I will not consider leaving the district until I have built sufficient capacity within the organization to guarantee the quality school experience that your children deserve; there is still work to be done before we reach that level of quality.

As you know, I place a high value on transparency. I work hard to ensure that we communicate to you as much as possible about what is happening in the district and why. I am sure it will come as no surprise to you, but your Lovejoy ISD Board of Trustees are probably one of the best informed boards regarding district business in the State of Texas. As the chief officer of the district, I communicate frequently with your Board of Trustees about all aspects of district business.

It appears that the four or five people within this district who oppose Lovejoy ISD have taken advantage of an unfortunate event within my family. My stepson, Mark, has gone through a very contentious divorce during the last year. During the disagreements regarding custody, I was informed by one of Mark's in-laws that my career would be harmed if I did not use my influence to have my stepson back off on his request for joint custody. Since that point, I have kept the Lovejoy Board of Trustees fully informed about the situation. As soon as these false and defamatory accusations began to surface, my first action was to inform the board. In typical fashion, your Lovejoy board investigated the allegations made against me and have found them to be without merit.

Since one or more district residents have decided to attempt to capitalize on a painful divorce experience within my family, I am responding in the most transparent way that I know. Please join me on Tuesday night, July 22nd, at 7:00 PM, in the Auditorium at Lovejoy High School for a Community Briefing on the facts regarding the allegations that have been made about me. I am proud of the work that I have done in public education for the last 31 years and am equally proud of my role as parent and grandparent. I will answer the allegations and any questions that you may have.

The Lovejoy ISD Board of Trustees has all of the facts and they are certain that I have been targeted by a few people who have an agenda with the district and at least one of these people have filed a complaint against me with the Texas Education Agency. Our Board of Trustees voted on July 10th to have the district fund my legal defense against these malicious accusations.

Please know that I have been represented by legal counsel since March and am continuing to evaluate my options to put an end to this attack on my character. Please be careful about forwarding any malicious email even if authored by someone else. The attorney has said that if legal action is taken those that have disseminated the defamatory content could risk legal exposure.

Lovejoy ISD is a wonderful place and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve the community. You have my word that I will continue to do the best work of my career to ensure that the Lovejoy team develops the best school experience we can for your sons and daughters.

Respectfully,

Ted Moore
Superintendent
Lovejoy ISD