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Superintendent files suit against Rampeys, Hudkins, "unnamed co-conspirators" **Watch Video**

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BROKEN ARROW - A lawsuit claiming defamation, emotional distress and tortious interference with a business contract was filed in Tulsa County District Court today by Broken Arrow Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Sisney against Mike and Narissa Rampey, owners of Air Assurance Co., and Dr. Douglas Hudkins, a local optometrist.

At a press conference held in the offices of the Richardson Law Firm, Sisney told local media he filed the suit against the three as well as three unnamed co-conspirators, to help regain his personal and professional reputation, both of which he said have been severely damaged.

Calls to the Rampeys and Hudkins were not returned by time this positing was made.

Since entering the education profession in 1981, Sisney said he learned local politics is natural, but he called the situation he is facing today "the biggest conspiratorial mystery of my life."

In the suit, which seeks unspecified damages in excess of \$10,000, Sisney laid out a series of events that began on April 1 when he said he discovered what he called \$77,000 in unauthorized billings by Air Assurance.

Upon further investigation, he said he discovered the Competitive Bidding Act was being avoided through a blanket purchase order, with invoices submitted by Air Assurance leading to the creation of supporting work orders. It was an error in this flow of events that led to the unauthorized billing coming to light, the suit contends.

From July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2008, Air Assurance was paid \$3.1 million without the use of the bidding process, according to the suit.

After initiating several personnel changes and creating a new internal money handling structure, Sisney said he received a letter from Mike Rampey terminating any future service to the school district. A short time later, the superintendent said he began to feel increased pressure from "certain school board members" to restore a relationship with the Rampeys because of their political influence.

About the same time, the suit says, Sisney discovered school board member Shari Wilkins had a business relationship with Air Assurance and the Rampeys were major contributors to school board member Sharon Whelpley's re-election campaign.

In another part of the filing, Sisney said the district discovered an invoice for repairs and labor done by Air Assurance at the office of Dr. Hudkins that had been billed to the school district and had been approved for payment.

According to the suit, on June 27, the Rampeys sent a letter to Sisney and all school board members accusing the superintendent of going on a "witch hunt" and demanding a halt to inquiries into their business dealings with the school district as well as a personal apology. Wilkins was especially vocal in her insistence that apology be given,

the suit contends.

What followed, the suit contends, was a series of events - including criticism for failure to attend activities the superintendent was not required to do, approaching an area school superintendent to measure his level of interest in the BA position, and the handing over of management authority of the district to Attorney Doug Mann - aimed at making it virtually impossible for the superintendent to do his job.

Sisney also contends Hudkins is accusing him of "stealing from the schools and trying to blame it on the Rampeys."

Especially damaging, Sisney contends, were three executive sessions held by the board of education in relation to his annual evaluation and contract with no action taken because it is being taken as a "show of no confidence."

To read the complete text of the lawsuit, go to

[DOWNLOAD PETITION \(pdf document\)](#)