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612, Broken Arrow (12/2/2009 11:57:15 AM)

Unfortunately, the Ledger hasn't tempered its stance on the Sisney controversy. Their opinion article states, "It's unfortunate a few board members actions at times have been petty, ridiculous and destructive."

It doesn't name board members, but I'm pretty sure they're referring to the 3, not the 2.

When the truth comes out, I will remind them of their words. That is terrible journalism, even on an opinion article. If it named names, it would probably be considered libel. Since "everybody knows" who they are referring to, it has the same effect as libel - they just can't be sued. Unbelievably irresponsible. And a much better example of pettiness than anything the board members supposedly did. Truly reprehensible.

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Jolie2, (12/2/2009 12:42:23 PM)

The Ledger's editors deserve a good kick in the butt for their part in creating the firestorm in our community. If they didn't have a biased interest in assisting Sisney in smearing the board, Air Assurance, and Gerber, and chose to investigate and report the story impartially, this could all have been nipped in the bud. People would have understood about the requirements for confidentiality and that it was not unusual to restrict public comment at a Special school board meeting, particularly one dealing with an employee issue. We can't blame it on ignorance, either, as they were specifically requested to address those issues in comments to their articles and they refused to do their job.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/2/2009 1:24:06 PM)

That was the thing that caught my attention and made me look into this further, way back in the beginning - after people commented that the board couldn't say anything about the Sisney situation because of employee confidentiality and the lawsuits, I wondered why people was still screaming about it. It didn't make sense, and it didn't make sense that the Ledger didn't clarify. That's what made me curious as to what was really going on, and made me skeptical about whether the Ledger was telling the whole story.

If they had been responsible in reporting back then, there would be no 612.

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Jolie2, (12/2/2009 2:05:35 PM)

I wouldn't have followed this case so closely and for so long, either. The Ledger let the people of Broken Arrow down.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 11:15:49 AM)

Copies of the flyer are posted on the website.

If you believe people should know this information, please download the flyer files and and pass them along, or email a link to the website.

So far I have received positive emails from several people and negative email from one person regarding the flyers.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 11:47:52 AM)

"Copies of the flyer" - that sounded kinda dumb. I'm probably the only one who ever made a copy of something before faxing it. Yeesh.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 12:49:21 PM)

NOT posted on the Ledger, in response to "To 612" on the "Bond Issue a Win-Win" article:

OSBI undoubtedly saw the need for an investigation. Whether they are investigating corruption on the school board or abuse of power, slander, libel, wrongful termination, and blackmail by a former superintendent remains to be seen. My understanding is that, unlike the audit, the scope of the OSBI investigation is not limited to the items they were initially asked to look into. I think it's likely that they are finding many incidents to investigate and put in their report.

Any administrative body can be accused of corruption; the public should be discerning enough to tell the difference between plausible allegations and fanciful ones. Sisney's claims are preposterous; the scenario he describes is unworkable. It is not reasonable to hold his targets responsible for his unproven, illogical, and extraordinarily unlikely accusations.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 12:55:16 PM)

Jolie, thanks for your response to "To 612". I am weary of dealing with Ledger posters who resort to misrepresenting facts and mischaracterizing others' words.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 12:58:15 PM)

Seriously, people keep saying, well the judge wouldn't try the case if there wasn't anything to it.

What in the world do they think the trial is for?

So do we just get rid of the judges and courts, and just go with whatever accusations anybody makes - they must be true? Seriously.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 1:09:44 PM)

NOT posted on the Ledger "Support school bond issue" story.

The Ledger needs to be held accountable for its role in spreading rumors and smearing Sisney's targets. There are about 3 months' worth of articles missing from the Ledger's archives, during the time Sisney was fired. The Ledger may have gotten rid of them, but they are not gone, and neither are the comments that were made on them. The Ledger's misreporting has been instrumental in causing the turmoil that has cost Broken Arrow so much money. They should not be allowed to get away with it. I believe it can be shown that they acted in bad faith. The biased reporting was not an accident.

I will remind the Ledger of these words when the truth comes out about what really happened:

"It's unfortunate a few board members actions at times have been petty, ridiculous and destructive."

Assisting in spreading misinformation by providing inflammatory headlines and allowing selected comments while refusing to publish others is truly petty, ridiculous, and destructive behavior.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 4:22:53 PM)

Posted on Ledger "Bond oversight committee named" article. "The Thinker" is in a rut. We've heard it all before, and it didn't make sense then.

I can understand how people initially believed Sisney's claims could have some validity - after all, he was in a position of authority and was a successful and respected superintendent. I was initially shocked at what it looked like the board was doing.

But anyone who is still under the impression that the school board members carried on a secret plot can look at the information we do have and see that Sisney's claims don't add up and his scenario is unworkable. The day will come when the truth about what happened will be out in the open; I believe that day will come soon.

Just because Sisney claims it doesn't make it true; the public should be discerning enough to tell the difference between plausible allegations and fanciful ones. It is not reasonable to hold Sisney's targets responsible for his unproven, illogical, and extraordinarily unlikely accusations.

This is not about Sisney's antics. Others keep trying to bring up old, tired, baseless accusations in an effort to derail the bond vote. I urge anyone who has taken what has been reported in the press and stated in comments as fact to look at the circumstances and events for themselves. A different picture may emerge than the one presented to the public.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/4/2009 5:06:38 PM)

Posted on the Ledger article, "Bond issue a win-win" in response to "To Jolie", who brought up the narrow-minded argument that since the OSBI is investigating, that makes Sisney's claims true.

It is very likely that the OSBI saw the need for an investigation. Clearly something started the events in motion that led to the controversy.

My understanding is that, unlike the audit, the scope of the OSBI investigation is not limited to the items they were initially asked to look into. I think it's likely that they are finding many incidents to investigate and put in their report. It

remains to be seen whether the information they are uncovering has more to do with corruption on the school board or with the actions of a former superintendent. Anyone can make accusations; that doesn't make them true. In the case of the claims against the school board members, we need to think about whether they are even plausible.

Hopefully the day will come soon when the events of the past year can be presented to the public objectively.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/7/2009 11:24:58 AM)

Posted on the Ledger article "Bond issue a win-win", in response to someone who wants Jolie to focus, and talks about dogs:

Oops, I lost part of the original. It went something like this:

I think I should point out that commenting on the school board controversy is not off-topic; the author of the editorial brought it up: "Much of the opposition to the bond has focused on the turmoil of the past several months, with much of the attention focused on the numerous 3-2 votes by the BOE." Anything that is the focus of "much of the opposition" to the bond issue is on-topic.

Neither Jolie nor 612 has introduced the topic of the controversy on any given article about the bond issue; we have only responded to previous mention of the controversy either in the article or in others' comments on the article.

I am perplexed as to how anyone can think the OSBI can draw a conclusion on the validity of Sisney's claims without any investigation. I don't believe we can assume that since the OSBI is conducting an investigation, that proves that Sisney's claims are true. I don't believe the scenario Sisney described is plausible, and I don't think anyone who has truly looked at his story objectively can.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/7/2009 12:36:38 PM)

A comment on the Ledger's "Support school bond issue" article says that the city council, Chamber, PTA, bank management, and the people on the appointed to the oversight committee are all bought off.

The bond issue hasn't even been passed, and the oversight committee is already corrupt.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/7/2009 4:51:15 PM)

On the "Bond Issue a Win-Win", someone is trying to say that the flyer is causing people to distrust the district and damaging the bond issue's chances. In addition to being illogical, that is extremely unlikely. The only negative feedback I have gotten in email was from one person who said, contradictorily, that no one takes us seriously, and that the flyer was making people decide to vote no.

So - no one takes us seriously, but somehow we're more influential than the Vote Yes campaign, the Vote No campaign, the Ledger's opinion, all of the commenters' opinions, and the school district's efforts to encourage people to support the bond issue? Not likely.

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Jolie2, (12/8/2009 9:18:25 PM)

Good news!! The school bond issue passed with 71% of the voters voting yes. I guess that disproves the theory that the Jim Sisney vs. BA BOE flyers caused people to vote no, unless the yes votes would have been even higher if people hadn't had an opportunity to read the other side of the story.

I'm so pleased that the teachers, kids, and administrators will have better tools and environments for teaching/learning.

Good riddance to those 'portable' school buildings. I can't wait until they're replaced with newer, larger solid permanent structures.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/9/2009 12:31:13 PM)

Today is the last day to file as a candidate in the board election for Zone 5. The Ledger has reported only one candidate so far. I wonder if anyone else will file.

It would be very nice if we could get through this election without more trashing of the board members and administration. If Mr. Denton runs unopposed, things will probably be quieter.

Of course, if in the meantime the OSBI investigation turns up real corruption on the board and administration, trash away.

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Jolie2, (12/9/2009 9:24:21 PM)

Jerry Denton is running unopposed for Zone 5 school board member election, as announced by the Ledger today.

He works as a manager for RelayHealth. I thought it was some kind of health and fitness organization but when I looked up their website, found out it is a service that allows patients to consult with their doctors online securely--electronic consultations. Very cool--something I would love my doctor's office to have available.

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Jolie2, (12/10/2009 12:02:11 PM)

These are two comments posted on a November 27, 2009, newson6 article titled "Fire Breaks Out at Sperry School Bus Barn"

on December 3, 2009, ub2slow wrote:

QUOTE

sperry mom, That's good, I hope that continues for your kids. I have to wonder how long that will last when you look at the reality of the situation. Teachers leaving & not being replaced, aids being let go & not replaced. A principal that now has to run between two different buildings, using his own vehical with no extra pay, look for class sizes to increase, a superintendant that uses school funds to avoid personal lawsuits filed be former principals. Hiring a "director of operations" with money so tight. A guy who has NEVER worked for a school before but getting 50+ thousand a year & just happens to be a neighbor of Sisneys'. 110k a year to the super. plus perks & so far it looks like all the board has done is give him office space to work on his broken arrow law suit & money to pay has attorneys. Soon now, the board will ask for more money in a bond issue because there doesn't seem to be enough money go buy anything for the school. Go figure!!

END QUOTE

to which I responded today, December 10, 2009:

Jolie wrote:

QUOTE

I'm glad that someone in Sperry is paying attention to what Jim Sisney is doing in Sperry. If the new director of operations, Roger Snellgrove, is married to a Beth Snellgrove and they live in Broken Arrow, I can tell you why he may have been hired. His wife Beth Snellgrove is the treasurer of the Broken Arrow PTA and was publicly outspoken against the BA Board of Education majority when they were taking action to dismiss Jim Sisney from his position as superintendent there. Beth Snellgrove was also the campaign manager for Trish Henley who ran for a board position recently (and lost to Cheryl Kelly). Ms. Henley was also very vocal in her criticism of the board majority at that time.

Director of operations is the second administrative position added to the Sperry School district in less than 7 months, since Dr. Sisney became superintendent there. The first one was assistant superintendent, filled by Brian Beagles, who worked with Dr. Sisney in both the Broken Arrow (as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services) and Bartlesville School Districts. Also note that Sperry's new middle school principal and district curriculum director, Brent Core, worked with Dr. Sisney in Broken Arrow (as Coordinator of Language Arts and Foreign Languages) just before coming to Sperry and worked with him in Bartlesville as well (he was a HS English teacher; Sisney was the HS Principal).

If you would like to read more about Dr. Sisney and the controversy he created in Broken Arrow last year with allegations against board members and businesses here and lawsuits filed, please read the extensive information available, complete with sources noted, at BrokenArrowForum dot net which also has a new two-page color flyer as a pdf document that you can read and download and which can be sent to anyone by e-mail or printed out to distribute. The flyer was created and distributed in the Broken Arrow area just before the recent school bond election to help provide additional information that the local media chose not to include in their reporting of the controversy.

There is an e-mail on the flyer and on the website, if you have any information you'd like to share or questions you would like to ask.

We hope that the Sperry community will learn from Broken Arrow's experience with Dr. Sisney without having to find out the hard way, BEFORE they decide on extending his employment contract with the district any further.

Please share this information with others in the Sperry community.

END QUOTE

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1adam12, (12/11/2009 9:30:51 AM)

to jolie2, didn't sisney hire the ledgers editors wife during the middle of the his broken arrow board allegations? would that not possibly make that editor biased? Hasnt he also hired other people for political reasons some in sperry? And he says the board and AA were scheming? Would that be like calling the kettle black? Maybe the OSBI and auditors are taking longer because they have been smart enough like jolie and 612 to put two and two together and see where the real crimes were being committed. Thanks 612 for helping us see the facts and all you have done to keep your mind open. I think the majority of the people in BA are smart enough to smell a rat and showed that by the recent bond election. The ba community is awesome. The majority support the decision the board had to make regarding sisney. This city and especially the schools and teachers owe a tremendous debt to these three ladies that had the courage to stand up under fire. I hope they name the PAC after them, The Three Amigos PAC

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612, Broken Arrow (12/11/2009 12:54:17 PM)

Breaking news - see TW article "Counterclaim against former Broken Arrow superintendent" published today.

The filing is posted on brokenarrowforum dot net, along with several eye-opening emails that Dr. Sisney deleted but that were recovered through forensic computer analysis.

brokenarrowforum dot net

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612, Broken Arrow (12/11/2009 12:55:03 PM)

3 Amigos PAC...I like it!

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Jolie2, (12/11/2009 9:35:44 PM)

I submitted the following comment to the Ledger story from December 11 titled "Board members want countersuit against Sisney"

QUOTE

Read some of the actual emails sent to and from Jim Sisney on the BrokenArrowForum. The complete court filing is available there, along with much, much more information related to the controversy.

The Tulsa World has posted a pdf file of the court documents, as well, with their article of December 11 on this subject. The comments that follow the article are enlightening.

END QUOTE

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Jolie2, (12/11/2009 9:57:16 PM)

to 1adam12

I had read comments posted that Bob Lewis's wife was hired by Sisney during a hiring freeze within the district (well before the current controversy with Sisney/BOE/AA). If true, it could be a possible motivation for Lewis's biased reporting and editing during this controversy. Here is the actual comment (see item 4 within it) posted to the TW story titled "No-shows cancel BA meeting" dated 08/19/09:

QUOTE

bacompadre, (8/22/2008 9:24:35 AM)

in response to BA Teacher

- 1) The defiant behavior of the superintendent is the business of the board. they are his boss. do you really think they would risk all this scrutiny for a personal agenda? i think they are being the brave ones!
- 2) They couldn't talk about the issue because they were being blocked from the agenda, which is why they didn't show up
- 3) There is proof that they did in fact request multiple times within "the policy" for the agenda and they were still blocked.

4) Do you really trust the ba ledger when a ledger employees wife just got hired when there have been cutbacks upon cutbacks and no hirings, but somehow she gets a job. That's the rumor? Could that be biased? Is there a reason that paper won't publish another side but the superintendent's side? they have published that it was sisneys great job that gave the district the PAC, it was his idea. Really, look it up, it in fact was not even close to his idea. They published that he got some big award in the center for quality leadership? Look it up, it's a seminar. come on! They keep touting how high the test scores are and what a reflection that is on sisney. They have been high for years, and we are only high in certain areas. Why not report the low scores? Do you think that really has to do with him, or prepping the students for the actual test?

5) Losing that many employees to other districts is not a "happenstance". It is truly a reflection upon the leadership. DO you think they went other places close by to get a big pay raise? Good one! Ask any of them what they think of Dictator Sisney. he's a first class bully. Since he got here, the turnover has never been higher! Look it up

6) he isn't exposing the problem, he's trying to save his job and in doing so making false accusations daily. when everything comes out you will look mighty silly!!

7) these board members are getting a bad rap, primarily due to them delaying the teachers impass. but i assure you it is not them that put this forth in the first place!! Who was it?

Basically, there is a huge other story to this, and unless you are truly on the inside, you have no clue!

END QUOTE

Recent revelations suggest that bacompadre was accurate in her perceptions of Sisney.

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Jolie2, (12/11/2009 10:30:39 PM)

1adam12

Here is another post re. Bob Lewis's wife and also Bob Bethel's wife posted back earlier on this article's comments section:

QUOTE

teacher, (3/5/2009 10:35:11 AM)

Thank you Jolie and 612 for continuing to show the rest of those that don't see it, that there is another side, and to be openminded one way or the other.

On another note, be careful of "wolves in sheeps clothing" as you continue to discuss certain issues with thenight1, etc. If you read former posts as I have, you'll know there is an agenda there, and they are just trying to gain your trust and a little more limelight on these discussions to at some point really bite.

Here are some other "ledger bias" I have noticed. Read the report on the rally. They reported nearly 200 people showed up. I was there, I thought Jolie, you said you were going, it looked more like 500 to me.

Did you see this weeks print edition? Look at page 10. Do you see anything, probably not. There was a blurb about the Rampey's on the cover of a national magazine. But of course it was printed smaller than half a business card. I really don't care, just think that's funny.

As you said before, Mr. Lewis does have a wife that was hired by Sisney during a "hiring freeze" and served on the BAPS PR board for Sisney, and is a close friend. Bob Bethel, other editor or staff or whatever, signed the petition to oust the board members(conflict of interest?). By the way, Bob Bethels wife happens to be the PR director for Union Public Schools as well.

And to comments regarding work going on at the schools. Yes, they hired 2 kids fresh out of school. They have no tools, they do not do any "maintenance", only do the small petty problems stuff. Do you honestly think that 2 kids could take care of the largest school complex in the state? That's why you'll still see many of the other companies here at the schoool regularly. The money that might be "saved" by the schools is the contract on maintenance as I see it. But if you'll watch the last board meeting, utility cosumption has risen by (i can't remember), either 30% or \$30K, both very high. Yet, we have had one of the warmest winters and coolest summers to date. I had a class with no heat for nearly 3 weeks because they were waiting for bids to come in. At what point does this benefit the kids?

When they finally put in the unit, they did it in the middle of the day with a large crane, while kids were in the area. Is that safe? That never happened before. I'm not saying who is wrong or right, all I can tell you is my experiences as a teacher in the current state we are in, and wonder if it's all worth it? I can tell you many other things about the former Super. and so could 99% of the rest of the faculty, but obviously, as you have said before, we are still afraid to speak out until this is all over with. Call me chicken, whatever. I could fill you in on many more things, but time to go back to class for now.

END QUOTE

Bob Bethel, one of the editors of Neighbor Newspapers/the Ledger at the time, cranked out a lot of stories in the early days of the controversy.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/11/2009 10:54:44 PM)

The District has filed a Motion to Compel in Sisney's Federal lawsuit, saying that Sisney's responses to interrogatories in Discovery have been evasive and nonresponsive.

The documents are on brokenarrowforum dot net.

"Retaliatory" seems to be a recurring theme in Sisney's answers. After reading the email from his attorney brother, which advises, "The word retaliation is a word of art to attorneys. Make sure you use it with your attorneys.", I can see where this came from.

A "concerted pattern of retaliation" sounds pretty convincing. But Sisney has not provided any actual instances of retaliatory acts. The Motion to Compel states, "Rather than providing facts as sought by the interrogatory, Sisney merely parrots the conclusory allegations contained in his complaint." This has been the tactic from the beginning.

Play the "retaliation" card, and you can't lose. Everybody loves to hate people who are painted - accurately or falsely - as vindictive.

brokenarrowforum dot net

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612, Broken Arrow (12/11/2009 11:08:05 PM)

The first statement in Sisney's answers to Interrogatories:

"Objection. This Interrogatory is premature as this case remains in the early stages of discovery."

Discovery is scheduled to be completed by 12/31/2009. At what point will the case no longer be in the early stages of discovery?

How can an interrogatory be premature, anyway?

Seriously, look at his answers. Lame.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/12/2009 9:16:51 AM)

Also posted on the TW "Counterclaim filed against ex-superintendent" article.

Sisney says he is "comfortable". I wonder why he won't provide answers to the most basic questions in his federal case. He won't tell:

- what the board members did that prevented him from investigating
- what jobs he missed out on because of being fired from BA
- in what way his contract was breached
- what the District did that violated Competitive Bidding laws
- what amount BA has failed to pay him on his contract
- what his damages are

You would think he would be eager to show the proof of his allegations.

Instead, he keeps saying "concerted pattern of retaliation" but doesn't say what they actually did to stop him from investigating. He never explains why they would even want to retaliate against him for trying to investigate. In fact, the emails that have been posted on BAParentsvsBABOE for months show cooperation and concern from Shari Wilkins and Stephanie Updike.

His answers mention events in August, like the meeting boycott. How could the board members boycott of a meeting in August prevent Sisney from notifying authorities of suspected corruption in April?

The only event he mentions that happened before August was that they put "intense, ongoing pressure on the Superintendent to make things right with Air Assurance". We have seen what really happened – Sisney suggested that he apologize to Rampey, then didn't do it. When he wanted to make himself look good at the 8/4/08 meeting, he sent an email to Updike instructing her to try to get Rampey to speak highly of him, telling Rampey that the issues have nothing to do with AA, and promising that Sisney will meet with him and resolve the issues (clear AA's name). We have seen Shari Wilkins' email gently encouraging Sisney to follow through with his suggestion of assuring Rampey that AA had done nothing wrong. We have seen that the board eventually decided to send the letter themselves, without Sisney, only to have it surreptitiously drafted and sent by Stover without the board members even knowing the Stover had received the draft from The Center for Education Law. How does any of this constitute "intense, ongoing pressure"? If there is anything else they did, why will Sisney not say?

Sisney's whole case hinges on the existence of intentional wrongdoing on the part of the board members relating to the HVAC work done by AA. There can be no retaliation if they were not hiding anything. Yet he won't state any laws he claims they broke, stating that the Interrogatory calls for legal conclusions and is protected by attorney-client privilege. This doesn't seem like any way to run a lawsuit. If you're not going to accuse someone of breaking a law, you don't have much of a lawsuit. Why would the law they allegedly broke need to be kept a secret from the judge?

The deadline for discovery is 12/31/2009. What is he waiting for?

Additional emails are available at brokenarrowforum dot net.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/12/2009 10:49:02 AM)

Posted on Ledger article "Board members want countersuit against Sisney"

What if what the board members say is true?

If it's true, should they not pursue justice, and try to clear their name after all the malicious attacks on them by Sisney and the public?

If it's true, should they not try to reveal the truth to the public, so we will understand what was behind their actions involving Sisney's termination?

If it's true, should the District not pursue reimbursement for the costs incurred by Sisney's mission to destroy the the public's faith in the school administration and board?

If what they say is true, how can anyone condemn their attempt to get justice for themselves, the District, and the community?

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Sperry Grandma, Sperry (12/12/2009 4:27:44 PM)

You know what? It looks like if two groups from two different school districts got together that they could bring Sisney down. He looks like the devil to me. Too bad for the students and teachers in both school districts.

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Jolie2, (12/12/2009 4:43:29 PM)

Sperry Grandma,

I believe that Jim Sisney's days of working as a superintendent or in any position of authority within a school system are coming swiftly to an end, as long as the Sperry board is sensible and not beholden to Sisney or worried about him turning on them and revealing any confidential information he may have related to their personal or professional lives.

Sisney put himself first while working in our district and was not worried about the harm he caused others in the attempts to get what he wanted. He has ended up hurting his own future much more than he might ever imagined when this all began.

He may even be facing criminal charges, once investigations are completed, related to extortion, using the legal system as a weapon of coercion and revenge, unlawfully taking and sharing confidential school district employee

records and sharing them with lawmakers for his own purposes, etc. (I'm not a lawyer so I don't know what the actual charges might be called, just that evidence points to all of these things having occurred.)

I am happy that BA and Sperry can share information about Sisney's activities and the effects that he has had on our communities.

Information is key. The more people in Sperry that become aware of the facts of the BA case, the easier it will be to rally them to rescue the district. At the very least, Sperry can't afford to pay for Sisney's administration/financial policies.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/12/2009 6:29:01 PM)

Sperry Grandma, your statement "he looks like the devil to me" made me laugh, because regarding a Sperry article a few months ago, I told Jolie I wanted to let people know about Sisney's antics but didn't want to sound like I was saying "Y'all just hired the devil - good luck with that!"

I hope you will help spread the word about his past. We want justice for the good people in Broken Arrow who he has hurt, and Sperry needs to get him out before he gets in a position where he can pull the same stunts.

It's possible that if he starts to feel threatened or cornered, he may take steps to protect his position. As you have seen, these steps can include some pretty involved scheming and some pretty harsh attacks on others. Clearly he has no qualms about threatening and blackmailing people. If any of your board members have anything they would rather keep quiet, they are an easy target. Maybe this is already happening. The board has approved his recommendations to create expensive new positions and put his friends in them. Is it because they think it's a good idea - or because he has convinced them in his own special way?

I doubt if he is doing much school district management these days.

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Jolie2, (12/13/2009 10:32:57 AM)

Submitted to the Ledger 12/13/09

QUOTE

Maryanne Flippo revealed at her press conference back in February that Sisney attempted to blackmail her and the board into providing him with something regarding his employment that he asked for. She was the victim of several conversations with him where he threatened her. Of course, she would know about this. By then, though, her reputation had been trashed so badly by Sisney and his large, organized group of supporters, that many people refused to believe her claims.

The difference now is that there is proof in the form of emails sent by Jim Sisney, and his brother Thurman Lee Sisney that detail the blackmail plot against the board and Air Assurance.

Don't you find that astounding, the level that Jim Sisney stooped to try and have his contract extended?

Did you even read those emails? The actual documents of the recent filing of the pleading for a counterclaim?

Blackmail is against the law. Making false police reports is against the law. Releasing confidential employee records to state lawmakers is against the law.

The people of Broken Arrow should take this seriously and look at this new evidence carefully and not be fooled by those who step forward and continue to smear the three board members who were acting in good faith when seeking to terminate Sisney's employment.

They need to look carefully at the large role that Stephanie Updike played in turning the community against the board majority, at the heeding of Jim Sisney.

Jolie

END QUOTE

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612, Broken Arrow (12/13/2009 10:49:35 AM)

Posted on KJRH "New legal motion filed involving Broken Arrow School District"

People need to understand that the HVAC contract is not the issue. Sisney MADE it the issue by copying the accusations from a real-life corruption scheme in Bossier City, LA, that began just months before Sisney "discovered" the "improperly paid" invoice to AA.

It has been acknowledged by everyone in the BA administration that bidding procedures were not followed according to laws and guidelines. In 2006, Dr. Gerber emailed Dr. Sisney and asked him specifically how he wanted to handle the HVAC contracts. Sisney did not respond.

If Sisney suspected real corruption on the board regarding AA, his duty was to inform state school authorities and/or law enforcement. He did neither when he allegedly made his discoveries. He waited 8 months (December 2008) to file a police report.

The emails among Shari Wilkins, Sisney, and Stephanie Updike show cooperation and concern from the board members concerning Sisney's supposed investigation. Sisney has never explained how the board members blocked him from investigating or reporting this information.

It is ludicrous to believe that a superintendent with the freedom to consult with legal counsel, email his disapproval of the board to all District employees, have two local newspapers present his complaints to the public, and file a lawsuit against board members would not have the knowledge and opportunity to alert the appropriate authorities if he truly suspected wrongdoing.

Please get the real story. See the 42 Questions Which Suggest Sisney Was Not Railroaded on BrokenArrowForum dot net.

HVAC is not the story; Sisney's contract is. I suspect that the only people still harping on that old line are Sisney supporters who are trying to help him hang on to his public image of "railroaded whistleblower" long enough to get a permanent contract before his lawsuits finish blowing up in his face.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/13/2009 11:10:28 AM)

Posted on the Ledger, in two parts.

Posted on the Broken Arrow Ledger, in two parts...we'll see if they allow it.

Sisney's whole case hinges on the existence of intentional wrongdoing on the part of the board members relating to the HVAC work done by AA.

What are critics of the board members saying they did wrong? Does anyone still believe they were trying to hide their collusion with Air Assurance? If not, what is the basis for the "concerted pattern of retaliation" that Sisney mentions 32,000 in his federal lawsuit? His whole premise for the board members trying to get rid of him is that there were retaliating. But there can be no retaliation if they were not hiding anything.

Anyone who is still under the impression that this is about HVAC, think about Sisney's claim that the board members prevented him from investigating and notifying authorities. How? What did they do to block him? He has never said, and continues to refuse to explain in the Interrogatories in his federal case.

The emails among Shari Wilkins, Sisney, and Stephanie Updike show cooperation and concern from the board members concerning Sisney's supposed investigation. Sisney has never explained how the board members blocked him from investigating or reporting this information.

It is ludicrous to believe that a superintendent with the freedom to consult with legal counsel, email his disapproval of the board to all District employees, have two local newspapers present his complaints to the public, and file a lawsuit against board members would not have the knowledge and opportunity to alert the appropriate authorities if he truly suspected wrongdoing. In fact, it was his DUTY to report any suspected corruption. He did not do so.

HVAC and retaliation are not the story; Sisney's contract is. I suspect that the only people still harping on that old line are Sisney supporters who are trying to help him hang on to his public image of "railroaded whistleblower" long enough to get a permanent contract before his lawsuits finish blowing up in his face.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/13/2009 12:06:30 PM)

Posted on Ledger:

In Sisney's federal case, the District has filed a Motion to Compel, saying that Sisney did not respond to discovery requests adequately, even when reminded by Defendant's counsel. The Motion says that the answers Sisney provided were "inadequate, incomplete, and/or assert baseless objections", were "evasive and nonresponsive", and "rather than providing facts as sought by the interrogatory, Sisney merely parrots the conclusory allegations contained in his complaint".

As an example, Interrogatory #15 asks for all opinions (legal and otherwise) that support his claim that the District violated Competitive Bidding Laws with respect to AA.

Sisney refuses to list even a single law he says they violated, saying that the Interrogatory calls for legal conclusions and is protected by attorney-client privilege. This doesn't seem like any way to run a lawsuit. If you're not going to accuse someone of breaking a law, you don't have much of a lawsuit.

As for attorney-client privilege - why would the naming the law they allegedly broke need to be kept a secret?

Sisney also claims that the Interrogatory is premature as the case is in the early stages of discovery. The deadline for discovery is 12/31/2009. At what point will it no longer be in the early stages? What is he waiting for?

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612, Broken Arrow (12/13/2009 1:02:55 PM)

Posted on Ledger:

In Sisney's federal case, Interrogatory #16 asks the names of all elected officials Sisney asked to intervene on his behalf. His answer: None.

Board meeting records show that Mike Ritze spoke on Sisney's behalf at the 8/12/2008 meeting. This was arranged in advance by Sisney and Ritze, as evidenced in the recovered email between the two of them on 8/11/2008. Lee Sisney advises Sisney to recruit Ritze's help in his email to Sisney on 8/16/2008.

Not only did Ritze speak on Sisney's behalf at the meeting, but he also gathered signatures for John Lare's Petition for Grand Jury Investigation. Curiously, he is also the notary who notarized his own signature. Any notary public should know that notarizing your own signature is not valid.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/13/2009 1:44:56 PM)

Posted on the Ledger, for all the good it will do.

I was going to wait for He Who's response to today's posts, but with I figured I might as well get it out there now.

Dear He Who:

You and I seem to have a mutual case of the "how-can-you-think-that"s. Actually, at first I did think the way you do about this controversy. But when the level of anger and vitriol directed toward the board members seemed excessive in light of the public's lack of knowledge of the reasons for their actions, I started wondering about some things.

- Why some members of the community seemed bent on obscuring information and attacking those who aren't willing to go along with their baseless condemnation of the board members and Dr. Gerber;
- Why Dr. Sisney didn't quietly report the suspected corruption to state education authorities, as this would have been the best way to catch the criminals and prosecute them;
- Why Sisney filed accusations against AA yet included proof in his filing that the accusations were false;
- How Sisney could accuse the 3 board members of secretly allowing blanket PO's over several years, when they were authorized by all 5 board members, approved by the CFO, and in fact recommended by the superintendent (Sisney) – every year.

One thing led to another, and I have put a lot of pieces of the puzzle together. The picture that emerged is far different from the one that Sisney portrays in his press releases.

I am confident that if you will advantage of the information on this that is available to the public and analyze it with an open mind, you will see the same difficulties that I see in Sisney's story.

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Jolie2, (12/13/2009 6:56:51 PM)

Taken from the Sperry School Board agenda for the December 14, 2009, regular meeting (tomorrow night):

QUOTE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. Motion and vote to enter executive session to discuss confidential communications concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action if the public body, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the public body to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest in accordance with Oklahoma State Statute 25-307-B (4).

END QUOTE

I wonder if this has anything to do with Sisney.

Maybe it's related to the recent Federal lawsuit by Keli Morgan, a former employee, related to her health problems/skin cancer.

Does anyone know the name of the attorney/law firm that advises and represents the Sperry Public School District?

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Jolie2, (12/13/2009 8:26:44 PM)

Does anyone know the full name of the wife of Bob Lewis, the Broken Arrow Ledger's retired managing editor?

Is there anyone who knows specifically what job at Broken Arrow Public Schools she was hired for by Jim Sisney, the department she worked for, and the date she was hired?

A couple of posters on the Tulsa World have previously mentioned that she was hired during a hiring freeze at BAPS.

I would like to confirm if it is true. If so, it might be one of the explanations for why Bob Lewis's reporting and editing of the controversy was biased toward Sisney's side of the story.

Any help would be appreciated.

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Jolie2, (12/14/2009 8:33:52 AM)

Broken Arrow's Board of Education has a regular meeting tonight, December 14, 2009, at 6 pm.

I hope someone will be there to address Updike's malfeasance. Actually I hope there will be a whole lot of somebodies that are willing to do that.

Updike should resign her post immediately.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/14/2009 2:49:13 PM)

A comment on the Ledger:

BA Native wrote on Dec 14, 2009 1:28 PM:

" With all that has gone on with this Sisney & 3 Amigo fiasco,WHY wouldn't everyone be FOR getting rid of the entire bunch and starting over??As long as anyone connected with this deal is in a position of power there will never be complete trust in the system. "

My response:

BA Native,

The evidence shows that we have three board members who have shown incredible strength of character, good judgment, integrity, and restraint in the face of extreme criticism. I don't know about you, but those are qualities I want in board members.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/14/2009 5:22:55 PM)

Posted on the Ledger:

In case there are any misconceptions about who is paying for the defense of the 3 board members:

Sisney has filed two lawsuits: One in state court, and one in federal. The defendants in the state court are individuals, including the 3 board members; NOT the School District. The defendant in the federal lawsuit is the School District; NOT the board members.

The counterclaim was filed in Sisney's defamation case, which is the lawsuit in state court. The School District is NOT a defendant in the state court action. The 3 are not being defended by District attorneys – their attorney is Phyllis Walta, not Doug Mann or anyone from RFR. Ms. Walta was hired by an insurance company, and the insurance company is paying for the costs of the defense, including of course the counterclaim.

To be clear:

- The District is not a defendant in the state action
- The District is not paying for the defense of the 3 in the state action
- The District and its attorneys have nothing whatsoever to do with the counterclaim filed by the 3 or their defense.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/15/2009 9:41:57 AM)

Posted on the Ledger in response to PBG's suggestion that we get rid of the board members:

PBG, if you had been steadfastly doing your job to the best of your ability while a co-worker sabotaged your efforts, spread lies about you in the community, and sued you, do you think it would be reasonable for your employer to fire you after the truth came out that you were the target of this attack, and did nothing wrong?

I'm sorry that you and many others were duped, but it isn't right to punish the board members for taking the appropriate action in difficult circumstances. All the while they have been serving the community, members of the community have attacked and maligned them. And now you want to remove them because of lies and rumors maliciously spread about them. It's time to stop.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/15/2009 11:43:05 AM)

Posted on the Ledger, in response to momof3inBA. The article does indeed make it sound like the board members just found out they had been blackmailed.

momof3inBA,

I understand your question - when I read the article it seemed to me that it was saying that the 3 board members only recently found out that they had been threatened. That is not the case. The thing that was recently discovered is that there is email evidence that corroborates the events as Maryanne Flippo described them in February, 2009.

Sisney's threats, intimidation tactics, and uncooperative behavior are the very things the board members tried to include in his evaluation for consideration when deciding whether to extend his contract.

From Maryanne Flippo's press conference in February, 2009:

"In July of 2008, in three separate conversations with me, Dr. Jim Sisney repeatedly threatened to create a public relations nightmare for the school district, as well as for me personally, if I did not do what he asked me to do...in July, Dr. Sisney threatened to sue the entire school board if I did not make sure the school board did what Dr. Sisney wanted done."

We now know that Sisney was demanding a good evaluation and an extension on his contract.

Ms. Flippo's explanation of events was treated with contempt by Broken Arrow citizens, who were quick to believe Sisney's story with no evidence but dismissed her version of events summarily. I hope that now, with the recently recovered emails that Sisney thought he had deleted, people will take a fresh look at her words, from this new perspective.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/15/2009 12:39:39 PM)

Jolie, the TW won't let us post comments referring to the website. See the article on the Sperry principal. That means

that someone reported our comments. I wonder who would want to suppress our comments and references to the website?

I hope they are not going to go through looking for comments to remove. In addition to the reference, that would remove everything else we said in the post.

I reposted this comment on the Sperry principal story:

Looks like someone reported my comment directing people to the website that contains information about Sisney's lawsuits against Broken Arrow. Who would want to suppress that? Or the contents of the post, or that matter?

Reposting my comment, without the reference.

I have heard from several Sperry people who are observing the same troubling character traits and management tactics that Sisney displayed in Broken Arrow. They are very concerned about Sisney cutting teacher and staff positions yet creating new high-level administrative positions and putting his friends in them.

Sperry needs to get him out before he gets in a position where he can pull the same stunts.

It's possible that if he starts to feel threatened or cornered, he may take steps to protect his position. As we have seen, these steps can include some pretty involved scheming and some pretty harsh attacks on others. Clearly he has no qualms about threatening and blackmailing people. If any of your board members have anything they would rather keep quiet, they are an easy target. Maybe this is already happening. The board has approved his recommendations to create expensive new positions and put his friends in them. Is it because they think it's a good idea - or because he has convinced them in his own special way?

He is gathering his generals. Don't think he won't use his tried-and-true methods of getting his way, to the detriment of the district.

Court documents and other documents are posted on a website which shall not be named, but will come up first in a Yahoo search using the keywords Sisney Broken Arrow lawsuit.

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612, Broken Arrow (12/15/2009 12:53:42 PM)

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612, Broken Arrow (12/15/2009 1:05:42 PM)

Guess I got a little carried away with the Submit button...