

Position 3: Mike Canchola and Jason Kemmerich

Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com>
to jason.kemmerich, mkcanchola

Apr 13, 2021, 12:59 PM (6 days ago) ☆ ↩ ⋮

Dear Mr. Kemmerich and Mr. Canchola:

I am writing an upcoming article to be published in the Oregon City News in regards to the position you are both running for election for: Oregon City School Board - Position 3, and will publish one week from today on (April 20, 2021). If you could please send me your answers to the following questions by April 19, 2021 I would appreciate it. If not, I will print that you declined to answer.

You may already be aware that there are multiple on-going state-wide investigations opened against the Oregon City equestrian team coach (known as OHSET) Angie Wacker, the current Athletic Director, Andy Jones, the Principal Carey Wilhelm, and the Superintendent Larry Didway over their handling of complaints made by parents against coach Wacker which include severe bullying, harassment, cyber-stalking, not reporting serious injuries...to name a few. This past January Mrs. Wacker was unanimously convicted by the ethics commission of four ethics violations for "self dealing" among other things. No other coach in Oregon history has ever been convicted of so many at one time. The investigative report provided to the Oregon City School Board by Mr. Jones (a report according to district policy was in fact supposed to be prepared by Mr. Didway) was almost entirely lifted (copy/pasted word-for-word) from emails Mrs. Wacker sent to Mr. Jones. I have attached a copy of the report for your review: the portions highlighted in yellow are the segments of Mrs. Wacker's emails which made it into Mr. Jones's report without attribution. For reference, the plagiarized emails can be found behind the report itself. I have also included several recent articles written about this incident below for your review. Yet, despite all of this, coach Wacker (a volunteer coach) continues on in her current position coaching both OHSET and 4-H clubs at Oregon City High School as does the athletic director.

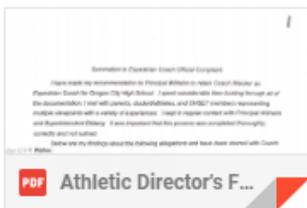
I would like to ask you each the same questions in regards to this situation:

- 1) How would you handle a situation similar to this if you are elected to the Oregon City School Board?
- 2) Would you take the time to read any/all investigative reports provided to you in regards to any coach (volunteer or otherwise) accused of abusing female students? And what steps would you take if you in fact discovered the report was obviously falsified?
- 3) How comfortable do you feel in standing up to fellow board members and/or the Superintendent if you disagree on an issue or how the process is being handled?
- 4) How comfortable do you feel in making sure district policies are followed as they are written? (In this case, numerous District 62 policies were either ignored or not followed properly).
- 5) Will you make a commitment to understanding/reading the District #62 school policies in regards to how proper procedures within the district should be followed as well as ensure they are same for female student athletes as they are for male student athletes?

- Article #1: ["State Nails Oregon City High School Coach on Ethics Violations"](#)
- Article #5: ["Oregon City School Board Now Subject to State Ethics Probe"](#)
- Article #7: ["Oregon Equestrian Coach Likely Author of Own Investigation"](#)
- Article #8: ["DA Orders Oregon City School District to Release Audio of Illegal Vote"](#)
- Article #10: ["Oregon City School District Apologizes for Illegal Board Vote"](#)

I would like to thank you both for your time and attention to this matter.

Best,
Debbie Ethell



Interview with Mike Canchola in person at Chapin Park, Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 10:00am.

D: Can I ask why you want to run for the OC School Board position?

M: Even though my kids are all grown I am the current President of the Oregon City Youth Football Association and am very active in the community helping kids.

D: May I ask what it is you do?

M: I work as a contractor

D: Have you heard about the numerous investigations going on at the school?

M: I have heard about it and it really concerns me.

D: Which part?

M: That no one is standing up for the kids. It seems like the board is only trying to cover their tail.

D: Is there anything else?

M: The bullying part really bothers me. As a coach it is our job to inspire the kids, not destroy them which is what bullying does. There was this kid with Down's Syndrome who loved football so much he came to every practice and every game so I made him our team captain. Then one day he didn't show up which wasn't like him at all. I went to his house to find out what was going on and it turned out one or two of the guys on my team had bullied him as he walked home from school. Now he was too afraid to come back. I went to the houses of the two individuals who bullied him and spoke with their parents. They agreed to get involved to make it stop. I then went to members of the community and other super fans at our games and asked them to get involved. In short, we had a mini-welcome back party for this kid who was so surprised and so happy that we did this. He hasn't missed a game since. That's the kind of person I hope to be, one that inspires, and lifts kids up, not someone who pushes them down. It is our responsibility as parents, as adults, to stand up for these kids.

D: Can I ask if you intend to answer the list of questions I sent to you?

M: I absolutely do but I've been super busy clearing up trees due to the storm. When do you need it by again?

D: Monday evening.

M: Okay I will do my best to get it to by then. I glanced at the articles and the documents you sent but I just didn't know. I just didn't know.

D: Didn't know about what?

M: I mean who marked up that report and attached those emails.

D: I did.

M: Okay so ... I just wasn't sure how trustworthy it was I mean ...

D: No I don't actually.

M: I mean anyone could alter a report.

D: Perhaps but it is available in the public domain, anyone can get a copy of it. If you read the articles I sent with the email there is one that states the district was aware that Andy lifted sections of the report from Angie's emails so they admitted they knew. They just didn't know how much exactly was lifted which is why I enclosed it for you all to see. I would also like to know if you will make a commitment to learning the school policies and procedures?

M: Yes I will. I mean I don't know them now of course but before I take a seat on the board you have my commitment that I will do my best to learn and ask questions if I don't know the answer.

D: That is all I ask.

← Jason Kemmerich

Sun, Apr 18, 9:43 PM (23 hours ago)



to me, Raymond ▾

Debbie~

Please share the following statement in its entirety, in place of my answers to your questions below.

"As a school board candidate, who was not on the board at the time of these events, I believe that it is imperative that we caution individuals on passing judgement before knowing all the facts. I do believe this is still an open investigation with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, and we should have confidence in the professionals who are conducting it. I plan to review the details when they are released in the near future."

I have also copied my above response to the editor of the Oregon City News, Raymond Rendleman. Take care and be safe~

Jason C. Kemmerich
503.708.1012

On Apr 19, 2021, at 6:45 AM, Debbie Ethell <debbieethell@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Kemmerich,

I find your answer perplexing. The part of the ethics investigation you are referring to that is "still open" is whether or not the current school board took an illegal vote, which is a moot point since they admitted they did so publicly. The coach was indeed convicted of four ethics violations on January 29, 2021 which is separate from the current ethics case against the school board.

I would like to give you another opportunity to address the questions and would imagine that as a school board member you will be asked much harder questions than this. Please note that two of my questions have nothing at all to do with this or any other case at the school. They are questions I feel every candidate (whether running for school board or Congress) should at the very least be able to answer.

Best,
Debbie

← Jason Kemmerich

7:49 AM (13 hours ago) ☆ ↩

to me, Raymond ▾

Debbie~

Here is a revised statement for you to print in entirety, based on upon your most recent email request:

"As a school board candidate, who was not on the board at the time of these events, I believe that it is imperative that we caution individuals on passing judgement before knowing all the facts. As the request below only includes some articles and not all the information that board members would have had access to; I would be remiss in my future duties casting a judgement without all the information. I do believe this is still an open investigation with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, and we should have confidence in the professionals who are conducting it. I plan to review the details when they are released in the near future."

I have also copied my above response to the editor of the Oregon City News, Raymond Rendleman. Take care and be safe~

Jason C. Kemmerich
503.708.1012

Mike Canchola's Answers:

← mkcanchola at bctonline.com

Mon, Apr 19, 9:46 PM (9 hours ago) ☆ ↩ ⋮

to me ▾

Debbie

I enjoyed our recent conversation. I will comment on your questions and I will stay away from some as the situation with the Equestrian coach sounds like it's still evolving as you investigate.

2) Would you take the time to read any/all investigative reports provided to you in regards to any coach (volunteer or otherwise) accused of abusing female students?

Absolutely! I would read any and all reports provided to make an educated decision on the accusation of abuse. As a coach in the community for over 18 years, we as coaches are entrusted with the safety and well being of our athletes. Abuse from a coach should never be tolerated!

3) How comfortable do you feel in standing up to fellow board members and/or the Superintendent if you disagree on an issue or how the process is being handled?

I would have no problem standing up to fellow board members or the Superintendent. As the youth football President, I have stood up to the OSAA and High School coaches, as they tried to change the rules of play for youth football. However, It does not always make you the most popular person in the room. You have to fight for what you believe in and the community you represent, all while keeping the student athlete's best interest at heart. I will do the same for our kids and our community as a member of the school board.

4) How comfortable do you feel in making sure district policies are followed as they are written? (In this case, numerous District 62 policies were either ignored or not followed properly).

The policies need to be followed or the district loses credibility. If the policies are not being followed then questions need to be asked, Is the policy outdated, do we need this policy, are the coaches not educated on the policy, or are the coaches willfully violating the policy? Whatever the answer is it would need to be addressed.

5) Will you make a commitment to understanding/reading the District #62 school policies in regards to how proper procedures within the district should be followed as well as ensure they are **same** for female student athletes as they are for male student athletes?

As a school board member I will commit to reading and understanding the District #62 school policies in regards to how proper procedures in the district should be followed as well as ensure they are the same for all student athletes regardless of gender.

Let me know if you have questions.

Michael Canchola
503-970-6811
Candidate for Position 3 Oregon City School Board