



Patrick Brenner <pbrenner@southwestpolicy.com>

Complaint: promotion of bond position using APS email

1 message

Patrick Brenner <pbrenner@southwestpolicy.com>

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 2:55 PM

To: superintendent@aps.edu

Cc: Vickie.Bannerman@state.nm.us, kurtsteinhaus1@gmail.com, Kurt.Steinhaus@state.nm.us

Good afternoon Mr. Elder,

I would like to bring to your attention what I believe to be a violation of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy, specifically addressing the promotion of one position over another being expressly prohibited. These findings are the result of many months of investigation into questionable conduct by an employee of Albuquerque Public Schools.

In January, 2019, Dr. Vickie C. Bannerman, in her official capacity as principal of Volcano Vista High School, used the parental email contact list to disseminate an email directing parents to "vote YES" on the 2019 special bond election. As far as can be discerned, no action was ever taken against Dr. Bannerman because no complaint was ever lodged.

That same year, Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque similarly used public resources to advocate for passage of general obligation bonds. More information on that can be found here: <https://southwestpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/3-10-20-Keller-Settlement-Agreement.pdf>

I've CC'ed Dr. Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary of Education with the New Mexico Public Education Department, and Dr. Vickie Bannerman in her current role as the Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation, also with the New Mexico Public Education Department.

This email from Dr. Bannerman was sent to over 3,500 parents and the use of public resources to advocate for passage of a bond measure such as this is antithetical to the standards of nonpartisanship we expect of our educational institutions.

Because of the continuation of such actions in neighboring states like Texas as recently as this month (<https://texasscorecard.com/local/belton-school-officials-caught-in-bond-boosting-shenanigans/>), the issue is pertinent, relevant, and ought to be addressed by your administration.

What can be done to ensure that actions like this do not occur again?

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,

--Patrick

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Patrick M. Brenner*President*

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