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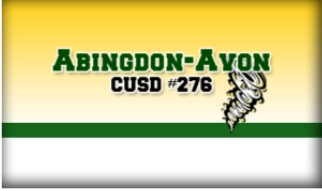
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## Employee placed on leave after Abingdon-Avon School District data breach

KWQC Staff  
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ABINGDON, Ill. (KWQC) – The Abingdon-Avon School District says confidential data was compromised and they are working to fix the issue. In a statement posted to their website, district officials say they were alerted to the data breach when they discovered unauthorized changes to student grade point averages.



After an investigation, they say other breaches were discovered, including unauthorized access and copying of emails. Officials say an unnamed employee was placed on leave and they are working to make their data system more secure.

The district's superintendent and principals were in meetings all day and were unavailable for a comment.

An employee at the high school said he thinks there is much more to this breach than the district is saying.

Stay tuned to KWQC-TV6 and kwqc.com for updates to this developing story as we receive them. The following is school district's statement that was posted to their website.

“ Around the first of the year, the school district discovered several changes to its student information management system which resulted in unauthorized changes to student grade point averages. While the changes were tracked down and resolved, the unauthorized nature of the changes caused the school administration and board concern, and the school hired a consulting firm to investigate the changes.

During the investigation, other unauthorized activity was uncovered, including unauthorized access and copying of certain employees' emails. The school district has placed an employee on leave and has begun the process of assuring school district data is safe. The school district is working with professional technology assistance to assure its data systems are secure for the future, and has begun the process of notifying those whose data was breached.

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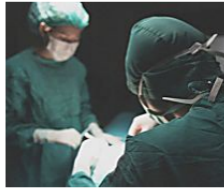
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JE - a day ago

While you are researching the actual truth of what is going on in our community, go ahead and research Mr. Willis's time at Cuba. He bullied and harassed employees there as well. This "investigation" is a witch hunt against a very well liked and respected member of our community that has NOTHING to gain by changing grades. All so that Mr. Willis can bring a buddy from Cuba for his job. This community is sick and tired of the deceptive conduct of our school administrators. Do some research and help us stop this superintendent from getting away with it.



Jay Carlson → JE - 15 hours ago

I heard that the changing grades had nothing to do with the suspension of the IT guy and that the two were unrelated. Where are you getting your information? Was you with him in Cuba or is this conjecture also? If you are going to step to the plate bring some facts!  
  
Someone said something about video taping students covertly. Won't you feel like a fool if that is true.

I could say he had an alien in his desk and the bottom line is we don't know,  
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Rick Ruhl → Jay Carlson - 13 hours ago

Now who is making stuff up? You are not even worth responding to anymore. Good bye  
Reply · Share



Jay Carlson - a day ago

Unbelievable - I am totally confused. School gets breached and someone is upset because they hired a company to take care of it. Let's just hope the employees ssn's weren't compromised. Then how do we go from breach to the IT Director being put on leave? Did the investigation company find something during their investigation? As a former investigator it saddens me to the ignorance of some people. The operations of the school is not the responsibility of the board that is the superintendent (read the rules folks). I heard what happened at the board meeting and to say that the public needs to know before the investigation and during it. HA... really. Does the police ask the commissioner for permission to investigate, tell everyone what is going on and ask to arrest. Hell no. That would compromise the investigation. If the board didn't reverse the decision of someone being on leave then they confirmed it so there must be valid reasons. What did this IT guy do? What did he do that was so bad? I know that putting someone on leave is not easy and whatever is going on I hope we all find out soon, but I fear that everyone is just making up stories and some of those may be from the very person who is on leave. I just hope these individuals don't make a fool of everyone. I am ashamed at everyone making up information when no information has been shared.



CT → Jay Carlson - a day ago

In response to your uninformed comment, they have found nothing on the IT guy. This is not the first time this superintendent has acted in such a manner without just cause. The school board is the superintendent's boss, not the reverse. Not to

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mention, not all school board members agree with this investigation nor did they know about it. Also, when it comes to a public school and tax payer dollars, the tax payers do have a right to know. Any financial information pertaining to a public school is to be available to the public. One last thing, the accusation is changing grades and GPAs, which was actually brought to the superintendent's attention by none other than this IT guy.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

**Jay Carlson** → CT · 14 hours ago  
Have you read the investigative report? If so, can you please post. Or is this just another rant of a person who is uninformed. I think you are confused that the school board didn't agree with it otherwise how would they pay for it. No the tax payers don't have the right to know. Go to the Police Department and demand that because you are a tax payer that you get access to their investigative files and see what they say.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share >

**Rick Ruhl** → Jay Carlson · 13 hours ago  
This is a school not a police department. Children are not required to go to jail but they are required to go to school. The tax payers do have the right to know. I think you need to compare apples to apples.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

**Jay Carlson** → Rick Ruhl · 7 minutes ago  
No they don't have the right to know during an investigation and I doubt the results will be shared with the public. Why would they share the results on how to break into the schools IT system. Did you get your law degree at facebook university? I did get mine at Purdue and retired after 20 years.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share >

**CT** → Jay Carlson · 14 hours ago  
This is not a criminal matter and police records are also accessible to the public. The school board did not vote on this matter nor did they know any findings from the investigation as of executive session on Wednesday. Furthermore, if you have followed the story from other news sources other than this one, you will find that maybe it isn't just community ranting. This superintendent has behaved identically in other districts. There is a clear issue, and all the community was asking for was answers. Clearly you just are playing Devil's advocate.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

**Jay Carlson** → CT · 4 minutes ago  
No police records are not available until an investigation is complete and even then are heavily redacted or not available at all. Investigative notes are not public records. If you want to FOIA request something there are many exemptions for this type of information. The school board doesn't need to vote on the operations of the school.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share >

**JKG** · a day ago  
It's sad that ones reputation is being shamed to the public because of "said investigation". Its sad that our school district is in the public eye because of a announcent that was posted on the school website. If the chain of command would have taken the correct protocol, we as a community may not be in the situation we are in. It's heartbreaking to know that this has been an issue for so long now (with no answers to date)and that the majority of the community is just now finding out about it. The worst of all is seeing a community, the taxpayers of this district, coming together to get answers only for the board and administration to walk out of the room. A simple statement from the board or Mr. Willis would have went a long way. Not only are they disrupting employees lives, our children are hearing these rumors and are subject to the backlash this is causing in the news media, community and schools. Thank you to the 3 board members that are standing by community and want answers as well! We as parents try our hardest to protect our children. While voting members to the school board you would assume they are willing to also protect and have the best interest for your children and the environment they are in everyday.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

**Jay Carlson** → JKG · a day ago  
Isn't the school required by law to notify everyone of the breach within 90 days and the victims once identified?

Are the police involve. That would prohibit the Board from making any comment and obstructing justice.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share >

**Jen** → Jay Carlson · a day ago  
They administration knew about the breach long before 90 days ago.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

**JKG** → Jay Carlson · a day ago  
Thats the issue, no one knows anything. Teachers stated last night that they noticed frades beinf changed in thw system last fall but no action was taken until Jan. The superintendent then took it upon himself to hire an



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investigator. We have a board of education for a reason, they are to be notified of all concerns regarding the school district. This said individual has kept them in the dark as well as the community. If 90 days stands true then he's way past that deadline. The public announcement states they will begin notifying individuals who were breached. Like I said before they knew this meeting was going to be a big community gathering, a simple statement, would have went a long ways. There's always more to the story.

^ | v · Reply · Share



JR · a day ago

It was the high school principal and superintendent changing students grades and bullying other teachers change the grades of certain students so they would be eligible to play sports. The meeting they held was open to the public and when a teacher asked the principal if it would back fire on them if they went, the principal says, I don't know, go and find out. A lot of the teachers didn't show up because they were worried about what would happen the next day at work. The level of bullying that is going on here has PARENTS wondering what will happen to our children if we stand up and say something.

^ | v · Reply · Share



Jay Carlson → JR · 3 minutes ago

Such a crock of crap. The principal changing grades and then to spend money to find out who!! Really!! you do realize that would be an offense with a federal charge behind it with the state board of education invitation. Ridiculous. I am not a fan of the school, but this is make up.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share



Jen · a day ago

This story COMPLETELY missed the point of the entire situation. This station should probably reference the local media coverage and then could report on the actual story. The person put on leave had NOTHING to do with the security breach. This superintendent scapegoated an outstanding local community member, long time school employee, and prior school board member and president all to pretend like this investigation, which he kept from the public, until we went out of our way to ensure it was no longer hidden, was the actual reason behind an illegal and tax funded investigation. The superintendent hired an investigator and conducted an investigation without school board approval and without public knowledge. The public meeting they had last night was out of direct public pressure to address this "investigation" and to demand that this superintendent stop his deceptive and outright illegal and harassing behavior towards school staff and specifically the "individual put on leave". In addition the meeting addressed a recent teacher survey which overwhelmingly cited bullying, intimidating, unprofessional, and divisive practices/behaviors by the superintendent himself, Chad Willis. The meeting was not for the purpose of them informing us of anything. They didn't even speak or answer a single question presented to them.

^ | v · Reply · Share



Jay Carlson → Jen · a day ago

How do you know someone got scapegoated? Who told you this? Does anyone know the rules? I do not think the operations of the school require board approval and to keep the investigation quiet why would you tell anyone! How could any of the board say anything because they didn't even know what the investigation has show. Where is this coming from and it sounds like you are mis informed.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share



Jen → Jay Carlson · a day ago

Jay Carlson, do you live in the community? I do. Did you attend the meeting last night? I did. Do you know the rules? If so maybe you should share them here. The board was even kept in the dark regarding the investigation, exactly the point. If it did not require board approval why was it stated that it was given? I think the only person here misinformed is you.

^ | v · Reply · Share



Jay Carlson → Jen · 2 minutes ago

School boards must be notified of the situation but not take a vote. Therefore you are wrong in your ASSumption. I have a feeling the board knew all along what was going on. Have you asked a board member if they knew?

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share



Sharon Asencio · a day ago

The person put on leave is Not the one who they should be investigating!!

^ | v · Reply · Share



Jay Carlson → Sharon Asencio · a day ago

Why? What if the person you are standing up for did something really really bad? you still going to stand up for that person?

Everyone is just making stuff up and this is nuts!

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share



Rick Ruhl → Jay Carlson · a day ago

Apparently you are the one who is nuts. You know nothing of the situation but yet feel obligated to get involved. Odds are you are friends with Willis and are trying to get things stirred up. I also think it is a good thing that you are a FORMER investigator because you have sure missed the boat in this case.

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Jay Carlson → Rick Ruhl · 14 hours ago

No clearly no one knows what is going on and is making stuff up. I am not friends with Willis, but it seems as if everyone wants to believe any rumor they hear!

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share



Rick Ruhl → Jay Carlson · 14 hours ago

I do not understand why you would say people do not know what is going on and they are making things up. What is being said by one person lines up with what the other person says. I also think you are brave telling a good portion of this community that they are stupid and are not able to get information on their own. have you ever thought that the person accused is a very respected person in the community. Clearly you don't know what is going on and it still baffles me why this is so important to you. What is your connection to this?

^ | v · Reply · Share



Jay Carlson → Rick Ruhl · a few seconds ago

I talked with a reporter who has been working on this story and she said that the person whom was put on leave was not put on leave for the data breach. That the reason they were put on leave is unrelated.

^ | v · Edit · Reply · Share



Jen → Jay Carlson · a day ago

If this administration could give the public any definitive proof that this person did something "really really bad" then they should do that. First, they could start with showing evidence that this person did absolutely anything.

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