

Pascagoula School District Watchdogs

Contact: Mark Miller

Cell: 228-218-9523

Email: Mark@PascagoulaSchools.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GAUTIER MAN FILES LEGAL COMPLAINT AGAINST PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Court date set for Tuesday April 24, 2012 at 10:00 am

5343 Jefferson Street, Moss Point, Mississippi

At the center of this controversy is the alleged right of school districts to confiscate communication devices such as cell phones for an entire school year on the first offense. Mark Miller, 52, of Gautier has 3 sons in the Pascagoula School District and says the rights to his property were violated by the School District when they confiscated his iPhone 4S from his son and refused to return Miller's property to him. Miller originally approached the Principal of Gautier High School, and then later approached the entire School Board on March 12, 2012, but they took no action to rectify the situation. Miller filed a legal complaint in Jackson County Justice Court to have the School District reimburse him \$890.45 for the replacement of his property. Miller had contractual obligations that required him either to pay a hefty financial penalty for the violation of his contract, or to replace his electronic device. "School policy must be reasonable and justifiably necessary in order to be constitutionally valid," said David Miller, brother to the Plaintiff. "The School District is not allowed to make whatever draconian laws they feel like serves their best interest. What we have here basically is a legalization of theft by the government with no clear compelling reason of the necessity to do so. Does the School District really think that confiscating phones for the entire school year somehow makes the school system safer and more orderly"? The actions have caused the creation of a watchdog group with a website at www.PascagoulaSchools.com. It appears that many parents are not happy with the School Board. Miller said, "After the Columbine school shooting, many school districts have come to understand that students are safer having their phones with them so they can call authorities or their parents if tragedy through school shootings or storms were to strike." While the group recognizes the ability of schools to restrict the use of phones and texting devices during school time, they believe that confiscating turned-off phones for the entire school is much too tyrannical and oppressive. Their Facebook sound off page mentions the confiscation of one phone whose battery was removed and was just sitting in the locker causing no disruption whatsoever.

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If you would like more information about this topic, see <http://pascagoulaschools.com/cellphone.htm>, or to schedule an interview with Mark Miller, please call or text Mark Miller at 228-218-9523, or email Mark at Mark@PascagoulaSchools.com.