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May 25, 2012

Mr. Wayne Vincent Rodolfich
Superintendent, Pascagoula School District
PO Box 250
Pascagoula, MS 39568-0250

Dear Mr. Rodolfich:

I have not heard any response from you to my previous correspondence in response to my request for the new cell phone policy. However, I have heard third hand that your new policy still includes confiscation of parental property, so I have followed through with my court appeal to Jackson County Court. I do not understand why you do not see that parental property confiscation is not necessary and does very little to accomplish your goal of eliminating cell phones in your school district. These devices are used by the parents outside of school hours for reasons that are none of the school district's business. During school hours you can assume parental duties, you can confiscate phones, you can discipline students, but when the school day is over, you should not dictate the parent-child relationship. If you want to do this, then you should setup a boarding environment and our children can live with you during the school year. You are dictating to parents that they cannot use these devices in their parenting outside of instructional time. Not only is this wrong, it is a big safety concern in many ways. I can only assume that your pride is interfering with your ability to make a sound change in this draconian policy.

In all your media responses in this matter you indicate that we must eliminate cell phones from the schools and I somewhat agree with you. I only say "somewhat" because there are actually quite useful things the phones can be used for during school hours, but the problem is student abuse. A student can also abuse pencil and paper, but that doesn't mean we ban those items. Ironically your newsletters actually brag that the District is purchasing more mobile computing devices to be used in the classroom. So why do you insist on confiscating these devices and replacing them with your own? Please enlighten me as to how prolonged confiscation of these devices help eliminate them from the classroom. I just don't see your logic. I think the penalty should focus on the disobedient student, but as an option, you could implement a fine as some other districts do. First offense, \$20 fine or 1 week confiscation. Second offense, \$40 fine or 2 week confiscation, Third or subsequent offences, \$100 fine or 1 month confiscation. The confiscation option in this scenario is merely to give low income violators an option to avoid the fine. Those persons are not likely to replace the phones and probably don't use them to the extent that I do. For me these devices are key to my child's successful future in this 21st Century. Ironically you are severely hampering these important educational efforts.

Disregarding their usefulness, let's say we really want to eliminate them from campus indoors. I want to help you do that without infringing on my constitutional rights to my property. Let's make a deal. If you provide me the floor plans of your schools, remove mandatory prolonged confiscation from your cell phone policy, and change the prohibition of cell phones to indoors so students can leave phones in their vehicles, I will provide the Engineering Services necessary to give you a plan to install technology throughout the District that will detect the presence and location of these devices. I will provide a detail of the equipment needed at each school and the costs involved. I will also provide supervision of the installation and testing to ensure the project completes successfully. And, I will provide these Services at no cost to you or the School District. This project would be a rational expenditure of a very small portion of your recent court decision that put an extra \$19 million dollars into your District from Chevron tax dollars.

To tell you about myself, I am a proud product of your Pascagoula School District. I graduated in the top 5% of my class from Pascagoula High School in 1978. I went on to MGCCC Jackson County taking Industrial Electricity and graduated with a 4.0 and set a record for the fastest completion in their self-paced program. From there I went on to a cooperative education program between Singing River Electric Power Association and Mississippi State University. I graduated cum laude from MSU in 1984 in Electrical Engineering with specialties in Power Systems and Digital Computing. I have been a registered professional engineer in the State of Mississippi since 1988 (license #10505). I have been self-employed since 1991 providing computer and electrical engineering services in Jackson County, Mississippi. This background should satisfy any questions about my ability to perform these services for you.

If you agree to these terms, please have your attorney draw up an agreement and contact me for execution of it. As part of the terms he may include the withdraw of my court appeal.

Sincerely,

Mark P Miller, P.E.