

April 8, 2018

STATEMENT

IN RE: DR. MATTHEW WENDT

(For Immediate Release)

As previously indicated, on March 14, 2018, Fayetteville Public Schools General Counsel Mr. Chris Lawson informed my client, Superintendent Dr. Matthew Wendt, that a Fayetteville lawyer had informed the District of a claim of sexual harassment by Dr. Wendt involving another District employee. As expected, and in accordance with its policies, the District initiated an investigation, and Dr. Wendt has completely and fully cooperated in that investigation. Investigations such as these are typically confidential.

On Dr. Wendt's behalf, I attended a meeting with the District's General Counsel and Ms. Suzanne Clark, the complaining employee's attorney, on Friday, March 30, 2018. I provided information and documents to Ms. Clark at the meeting that was inconsistent with the allegations she had put forward.

Having no interest in an investigation, the following Monday, Ms. Clark sent a letter to Mr. Lawson and within days released it to the press. Apparently, Ms. Clark and her client have also chosen to share other allegations in the community and with the press. Omitted from the letter and other statements is any of the information provided to Ms. Clark on March 30, 2018.

Ms. Clark and her client are critical of the District and the Fayetteville Public Schools Board of Education because upon receipt of her complaint, Dr. Wendt did not resign and the Board did not immediately terminate him without investigation. Dr.

Wendt has and will continue to cooperate in the District's investigation. I understand that as part of the investigation, the District has requested an interview with Ms. Clark's client.

On Friday, Board President Justin Eichmann and Dr. Wendt discussed Dr. Wendt taking a leave from his duties pending the investigation and the Board's consideration of the results. On Saturday morning, Dr. Wendt notified Mr. Eichmann that, in the interest of the District and community, he agreed that would be best and is now on leave.

Again, Dr. Wendt and I look forward to the District completing its investigation.

FRIDAY, ELDREDGE & CLARK, LLP

Elizabeth Robben Murray