

Board Statement Regarding Media
Richmond R-XVI Board of Education
March 13, 2018

It is the policy of the Richmond R-XVI Board of Education to not comment on personnel or legal issues.

In recent weeks there have been three articles published in the Richmond News about the district, schools, and school personnel.

In these articles, rumor, innuendo, and half-truths have been presented as fact with no attempts to seek out others who might provide a different perspective, even when provided with names of individuals with knowledge of the incidents.

Many of the incidents were dredged up and sensationalized with no acknowledgment that the Board had already been informed or had already dealt with these incidents, some up to four years ago.

One grievance and one headline were used to unfairly paint a picture of a climate of fear and intimidation at the high school.

In the most recent article, allegations were made that had never been reported to building administration or counselors or district administration or Board Members.

More than once these articles indicate that the information provided to the newspaper was unsolicited. Yet, some individuals quoted in these articles were encouraged by someone to provide their information to the newspaper as part of an orchestrated, coordinated smear campaign.

The Board does support the right for all students, teachers, parents, and patrons to be treated fairly.

The Board does take seriously all complaints made by students, teachers, and parents.

To ensure proper consideration, individuals are reminded that their concerns need to be expressed through the appropriate channels as spelled out in Board policy and student handbooks.