



This letter is written specifically to board member Kevin Beiser; however, we felt that all board members should be made aware of our concerns as counselors/staff members at Scripps Ranch High School.

Mr. Beiser,

Your lack of support for the Scripps Ranch High learning community, administrative team and our principal has been very unsettling and upsetting. We were very surprised and disappointed when we learned that you received a complaint from an angry parent and went straight to the superintendent rather than contacting the principal to get a better understanding of the situation. Additionally, you made a public statement going against the decision of our school without ever having any contact with the school's administrators or the area superintendent. It seemed incredibly premature and unfair considering you had very little information and only one side of the story. The school district is governed by policies, procedures and protocol for all areas of work. Scripps Ranch High administration followed proper protocol by contacting the area superintendent and the placement and appeal office in order to work collaboratively with both to decide on an appropriate action.

As an educational staff we have taken an oath to serve and teach our students. It is our responsibility to make sound decisions for the betterment of our youth - our future. We must help educate our students to use good judgment, know right from wrong and understand that their actions can result in minor or very harmful consequences. There is a time and place for everything, and that is an important lesson for our kids to learn. Could you imagine having staff members representing SDUSD doing a similar video and labeling it with our district name? Very different if those same staff members did the moves on their own time with no association to their place of employment.

Misusing school equipment, misusing school time, and misrepresenting the school are all poor choices. By creating and posting an unapproved video identifying the school with students doing sexually provocative moves such as "twerking", or as most of our students performed the move - "pussy poppin" (description below), while using a song with large amounts of profanity, shows extreme disregard for the rules and policies of any school. What message are we sending our children when we ignore or overlook these behaviors? Why have rules and guidelines if when they are not followed, there are no repercussions? As an adult when we do not follow rules we get tickets, are fined, lose our jobs, get kicked out of college, etc. How are we preparing students for life after high school if they think rules do not apply to them? A world without rules is in chaos and if schools cannot uphold their rules and policies then how do we keep order on our campuses.

According to the San Diego Unified School District Suspension Policy this situation warranted a suspension. It has sent a strong message to our kids about thinking first before they act. We understand that many of the complaints you hear are regarding the suspensions, but the sad reality for these kids is in the long run the suspensions will matter least and their potentially damaged reputation is what will linger. One day they will apply for jobs where their names will be put in a Google search and everything they have ever posted publicly, including this

“twerking/pussy poppin” YouTube video may come up. By making a strong statement now, we are teaching a lesson to ALL students not just the 31 suspended.

If you and the board do not support the school’s decision to suspend, then we believe you are sending the students a message that they do not have to follow rules and that whatever they put on-line is ok. If there is an overturned decision it will set a precedence; one that states it’s okay to misuse school time, misuse school equipment and misrepresent your school community by posting a video with unapproved moves and vulgar language. Everything on the video including the music goes against all of the policies in our school, which our students are made well aware of by reviewing the handbook and through presentations.

In retrospect, we believe had you spoken with Ann Menna after receiving the parent’s complaint then we would have been able to work as a team from the start. When you voiced your opinion against the school the parents and students felt vindicated, further encouraging them to continue the fight, which has now gained negative global attention. A school that should be known for its’ high academic achievement is now much more famously known for this video. If this video is the first impression for new families moving to San Diego, they may think twice before choosing one of our schools.

Now what? This video has created a major disruption on our campus and community. We now have an administrative team and staff whose reputations have been compromised and damaged. It’s a true tragedy considering the investment that we make to our students, parents and community. We work hard each and every day in our school to build relationships with all stakeholders. Having a board member go against us without having all the facts has been very destructive. We hope very much you see our concerns and are planning to work with the school by supporting the appropriate actions taken by the administration and staff based on school and district policies. Our understanding was that you had planned to retract your statement and it is our great hope that you still intend to follow through on your word.

~The SRHS Counselors and Counseling Support Staff

*Pussy poppin is when a woman stands on her head/hands with legs spread, balancing as she shakes her ass front to back. This move has been made very popular by several porn movies and the song “Pussy Poppin: by Luda.

‘Pussy poppin’ on a handstand!’

(This definition was taken from the on-line Urban Dictionary.)