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BY EMAIL ONLY TO: INFO@MURFREESBOROVOICE.COM

Murfreesboro Voice
Attn: Michelle Willard

Re: “Why Did Bill Spurlock Promote His Daughter Out of the Classroom”

Dear Ms. Willard:

Please be advised that I have been retained to represent Candace Thompson regarding an article that you published under the above title. The comments in your article regarding Mrs. Thompson and her new position are false and defamatory, and we demand an immediate retraction.

Your article indicates that Bill Spurlock promoted his daughter. However, this is not accurate. The decision to hire Mrs. Thompson to the position of instructional coach is a decision that was made by the principal of the school, Dr. Tori Ruis. Although the director of schools did have to approve the transition, he did not “promote his daughter out of the classroom,” “nor did he “move his daughter out of harm’s way ...”

You satirically commented “I’m sure she’s highly qualified and deserving of the new job.” However, it appears you did no investigation to what qualifications she possesses. In fact, Mrs. Thompson has a bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and is highly qualified in Mathematics. She took and passed four praxis exams and is qualified to teach any subject grades 4-8. She has a master’s degree in Administration and Supervision, for which she passed an additional praxis exam. Furthermore, she was recently accepted to the doctoral program at MTSU for Assessment, Learning & School Improvement. Mrs. Thompson has also worked in the school system for five years. She received tenure on a waiver because her level of effect in the classroom scored a 4 or 5 each year. As you can see, her credentials and effectiveness as an educator cannot be questioned.

You also indicate that this change in positions was somehow done to shield her from coronavirus. However, her new position will take her into every classroom in the building, rather than being confined to her one room. Her job is now to help all teachers, and their students, in her

school, rather than just the students in one classroom. She will interact with more people in her new position, than she would have in her prior position.

Mrs. Thompson has been a devoted educator for the entirety of her career with Rutherford County Schools, including the five years she spent as a coach for Oakland Middle Girls' Basketball. She does not deserve a libelous campaign against her achievements based upon unfounded information, which falsely leads readers to conclude that her father was the impetus behind her promotion.

Please immediately retract the article or republish the article and remove any suggestion that Mrs. Thompson is not qualified, that she will not be in the classroom, or that Mr. Spurlock promoted her. Your story goes directly to her reputation in her profession, which will be exceptionally damaging to her if left unchecked.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, but no later than five (5) days from today's date.

Sincerely,

BULLOCH, FLY, HORNSBY & EVANS, PLLC



Heather G. Parker
Attorney at Law