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August 26, 2024

Honorable Ken Paxton - Attorney General of Texas
300 W. 15th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Itasca Independent School District and Texas Education Agency
Complaint ID#-OR-24-029415-IC

Dear Mr. Paxton,

This letter is to serve as a formal request asking for the office of the attorney general of the State of Texas to take immediate action regarding multiple issues pertaining to the conduct of the superintendent of the Itasca Independent School District and its current board members. A case file (above) was opened previously regarding the complaints that have been previously filed.

Due to recent new information and statements made by the superintendent of schools Mrs. Tonya Harris and Board President Brian Bassett that attended a townhall meeting held on August 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Community Church of Itasca (audio and video recordings available), it is the opinion and position of myself and taxpayers attending the town hall meeting that immediate action be taken to prevent further financial damage to the citizens of Itasca that reside within the taxable jurisdiction of the Itasca Independent School District.

The purpose of the meeting was to update citizens of Itasca about important issues pertaining to property taxes and issues with Central Appraisal Districts (CADs) of several north Texas counties and Chapter 313 Agreements the district has signed. The process is underway to challenge the district and the Hill County Appraisal District (HCAD) in court. Mrs. Harris and others from the Itasca ISD attended the meeting and tried to take the meeting over several times with constant interruptions. There were two sheriff deputies that showed up to the meeting that were not asked to be there by me or anyone who was involved with setting this meeting up. It is obvious that the district invited these officers to the meeting. It is my opinion and others who attended the meeting the district was trying to use intimidation tactics to draw me into a fight or to cause other things to happen they were looking for. I'm 64 years old and I have no intentions to create a fight or brawl that requires the help or intervention of law enforcement. These actions will be noted and filed in the court cases that I will file if the state of Texas does not act immediately in these matters, I want to make this clear.

There are multiple items of concern regarding the 2024-2025 school budget the district has put forth. There are significant discrepancies in the 2023 financial final report and the new budget regarding bond debt, fund balances and where significant amounts of money came from. Mrs. Harris also stated in the town hall meeting the district was receiving \$750,000.00 dollars from one of the solar farm companies. I asked Mrs. Harris if these funds were reflected in the new budget. She responded and said the district will not receive these funds until September. I asked her if the district is going to revise the budget and she did not confirm if there would be a revised budget. There are many issues pertaining to decisions made by the district regarding the budget, Chapter 313 Agreements, and the Energy Contract the signed in 2016 and then terminated very shortly after executing the contract with Ideal Impact.

Based on what has transpired to date it is believed the district has purposely not included the \$750,000.00 dollars in the proposed budget to help the district's position with state matching funds. I do not believe the district would have brought this up had I not challenged them on multiple issues pertaining to the board's action regarding multiple contracts. Based on data from the 2023 financial report for the district and the current adopted budget it is stated the bond debt has been reduced by over \$1,375,000.00 dollars. There is no record of how this could have happened based on the past history of bond payments. It is believed the district may have received significant tax revenue from taxes collected from one of the solar farms the district signed a Chapter 313 Agreement with. There is no record on the district's site to verify what is going on in the district financially. It also proves the point that the state of Texas does not have a clue about how much it costs to operate a school district because no one knows what goes on behind the scenes everyday in school districts across the state of Texas.

Title 18 U.S. Code Sec. 1512(c)(1) & (2), law broken by every person who corruptly alters, destroys, or conceals record with intent to impair object's integrity or by person who obstructs, influences, or impedes in any official proceeding.

As I am sure you know, there are multiple issues pertaining to school districts in Texas, including, but not limited to Tarrant, Denton, Johnson, and Hill Counties. The Itasca Independent School District and others have been working in unison, as the Taxing Entities in corroboration with the Central Appraisal Districts to increase property tax revenues year after year based on market values created fraudulently outside the confines of USPAP, Texas Property Tax Code, Texas Constitution, and the Constitution of the United States of America. The recent hearings and court proceedings going on regarding counties in north Texas, as well as upcoming lawsuits against the individual CAD Board Members, Chief Appraisers, ARB members, off whom signed an Oath of Office, will expose the fraud being perpetrated on the property owners / taxpayers, as well as expose the fraud at the School Districts which are clearly bankrupt including Itasca ISD. The issues pertaining to School Districts and Chapter 313 Agreements with Solar Farm companies and how taxpayers are

investing billions of dollars via lower tax abatements granted to solar farm owners without the knowledge or consent of the property owners / taxpayers are coming to the surface and into the public eye in the north central Texas area. Manipulation of tax rates by school districts and in unison with the CADs is nothing short of fraud and corruption by trusted public servants.

On behalf of the Taxpayers of Hill County, I am hereby making this demand upon you and your office to formally open an immediate investigation of the Itasca School District. The Citizens of Hill County demand transparency and integrity from public servants at all levels of government in Texas, and clearly given the evidence that I will provide to you and your office, no such transparency or adherence to the laws of the State of Texas exists.

Please confirm the Attorney General's office will open a criminal investigation within five business days from the date this letter if there is no response from your office the necessary steps and legal actions will be taken including, but not limited to filing Itasca Independent School District into involuntary bankruptcy.

Your quick and immediate response is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jeff Mashburn

CC: Mark Pratt- District Attorney of Hill County

Rodney B. Watson- Hill County Sherrif

Legal Counsel Currently Representing Taxpayers in Court

Media and Press Outlets: Texas Scorecard, CommonSenseLaw.org, CBS-DFW News