

Jeff Mashburn
3336 FM 934
Itasca, Texas 76055

November 5, 2024

Itasca Independent School District
Superintendent of Schools – Tonya Harris
Board President- Brian Bassett
123 N. College
Itasca, Texas 76055

Regarding: Memorandum of Understanding

Attention: Mrs. Tonya Harris Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Brian Bassett Board President

Based on the events that have taken place to date and at the last meeting on the morning of November 5, 2024, at the administration office this letter is being sent to confirm the districts attitude and position regarding the taxpayers concerns about the financial accountabilities and accountability of district administrators.

Mrs. Harris communicated the district will not provide or release information requested concerning important matters pertaining to the districts use and expenditure of taxpayer funds. Mrs. Harris informed me that board president Mr. Bassett made the decision not to release information or cooperate with taxpayers to gain access to information in the district's possession. A request for a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to gain access from utility providers for energy bills was denied by the district. All utility data pertaining to energy use for school districts in the state of Texas is public information and access to such data is the right of taxpayers in the Itasca ISD. With over 25 years of experience as an energy engineer working in school districts across the state of Texas, I have never been denied a LOA from any district in the state of Texas or any other state I have worked in.

In regard to the information requested to validate the 2024-2025 annual budget the breakdown of cost cannot be delineated by taxpayers from the information provided. There are many discrepancies in regard to the annual budget adopted by the board on August 26th and the information from the Hill County Appraisal District. Taxpayers have the right to know and understand exactly what the cost of education of students within the Itasca ISD taxing jurisdiction is on a per student level.

While the district may not believe that taxpayers have the right to question the actions and conduct of district personnel or elected board members, taxpayers have all the rights and power to ask for any information pertaining to how a school district spends or uses taxpayer funds in the

state of Texas. School districts that obligate taxpayers financially by engaging in questionable or illegal methods of contracting such as energy contracts or Chapter 313 Agreements that violate the statutes that govern school districts are subject to all formal requests made by taxpayers in writing. The Itasca ISD has not cooperated with multiple requests made in writing dating back to 2020.

The defensive attitude and demeanor demonstrated this morning by Mrs. Harris was not appreciated and received well. Every effort made by me to work with the Itasca ISD to resolve important issues pertaining to taxpayers in the Itasca ISD has been done with professional courtesy and well documented. It is of the most unfortunate circumstances I and other taxpayers have no other choice but to pursue these issues with legal action and pleas before the courts for relief.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Mashburn", followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Jeff Mashburn