

Florida Teaching Profession
FTFP NIEA
National Education Association

213 South Adams Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32301 • (904) 222-4702

March 27, 2000

Howard and Carol Goings
1501 Elf Stone CT.
Casselberry, FL 32707

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Goings:

Please be advised that the Seminole Education Association on behalf of Kathy Garrett, a teacher at Indian Trails Middle School, has retained this office. I am writing you with regard to your statements that we believe have impugned the reputation of Ms. Garrett and to your continuing efforts to undermine her professional and personal credibility with other parents and her supervisors.

You have falsely made formal allegations that Ms. Garrett mistreated your child and have criticized, among many other things, Ms. Garrett's teaching abilities. While I can cite to other statements you have made against this teacher, I am particularly alarmed by what appears to be a campaign you have embarked upon to impugn Ms. Garrett by contacting other parents and members of the community. Your motives are clearly suspect and reinforce our belief that your actions are not in good faith. This is even more glaringly apparent in that you no longer have a child in her class. Not surprisingly, your attempt to impugn Ms. Garrett has been successful. Indeed, she has become the topic of conversation and several other students have been withdrawn from her class as a result of your efforts to impugn her professional performance.

Lest it be said, your statements and comments are categorically false and have no basis in fact. These comments, even if made in private, would have a devastating effect upon any teacher. However, you have chosen to slander this teacher publicly, causing even greater personal and professional damage.

In my view, your remarks and your continuing efforts to undermine Ms. Garrett's professional reputation go beyond lawful fair comment and are malicious and actionable. The extent to which you have injected yourself into her professional and personal lives goes well beyond mere opinion.

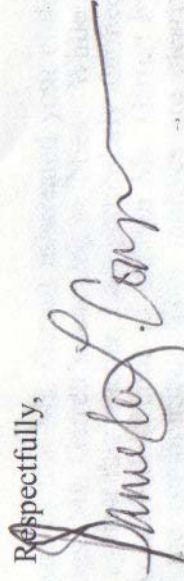
Mr. and Mrs. Goings
March 27, 2000
Page Two

By this letter, we are demanding that you cease and desist in making these false and malicious statements against Ms. Garrett and urge you to develop a more cooperative approach in dealing with those who are genuinely concerned about providing the best education for all students. Rather than attacking those educators who have the students' best interests at heart, it would certainly be more productive to work together to enable all the students to meet their fullest potential. This was and remains Ms. Garrett's primary goal despite your treatment of her.

However, in the event that you continue to impugn the reputation of this fine teacher, it will be necessary for us to consider formal legal action against you and pursue whatever damages are available to Ms. Garrett.

PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.

Respectfully,



Pamela L. Cooper
General Counsel

cc: Ms. Kathy Garrett
Ms. Terry Thompson
Ms. Brenda Alexander