

SUN-SENTINEL

Sold To:

Town of Highland Beach - CU00398185
3614 So. Ocean Blvd.
Highland Beach, FL 33487

Bill To:

Town of Highland Beach - CU00398185
3614 So. Ocean Blvd.
Highland Beach, FL 33487

Published Daily

Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida
Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida
Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida

State Of Florida
County Of Orange

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared
Rose Williams, who on oath says that he or she is a duly authorized representative of the SUN- SENTINEL,
a DAILY newspaper published in BROWARD/PALM BEACH/MIAMI-DADE County, Florida; that the
attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Notice in:

The matter of 11745-Other Legal Notices ,
Was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of, and by publication on the
newspaper's website, if authorized on Sep 13, 2024
budget summary
Affiant further says that the newspaper complies with all legal requirements for
publication in Chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

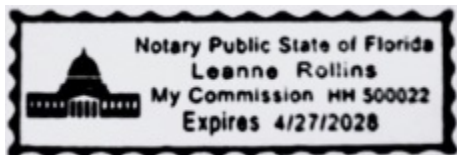


Signature of Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed before me this: September 13, 2024.



Signature of Notary Public



Name of Notary, Typed, Printed, or Stamped
Personally Known (X) or Produced Identification ()

Affidavit Delivery Method: U.S. Mail
Affidavit Email Address:
7693730

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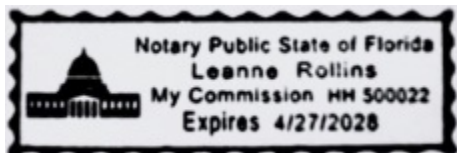


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Bullying

from Page 1

Mastrianni. Lynch-Walsh criticized Mastrianni's arrest of another longtime volunteer, Debbie Espinoza, during a heated School Board meeting last October.

Lynch-Walsh responded by filing her own bullying complaint against Hepburn and Mastrianni, while also alleging the investigation violated district policies. For example, she said she was never asked to submit a written statement, as required by the district's bullying policy. She was interviewed verbally by communications chief John Sullivan, who prepared the report.



Lynch-Walsh

The chairs of several advisory committees also sent emails to Hepburn saying Lynch-Walsh was speaking on behalf of a group of committees, so she shouldn't be singled out.

The original complaint by Mastrianni, obtained this week by the South Florida Sun Sentinel through a public records request, also raises questions about how thorough the district's investigation was. Mastrianni asked that Lynch-Walsh receive a reprimand, but also blasted the School Board's response to Lynch-Walsh, including one board member apologizing to Espinoza.

The complaint asks the board to take actions to prevent similar issues from happening in the future. But the concerns about the School Board's role weren't referenced in the district's investigation.

"Due to the alleged discrepancies in the investigation and the allegations made against the District, I believe it is critical that an independent inquiry carefully reviews the actions of the individual in question and the claims made against the District," Hepburn said in a Thursday email to School Board members.

Hepburn said to "ensure the transparency and integrity of this investigation," he will ask General Counsel Marylin Batista, who reports directly to the School Board, to identify an outside investigator.

"This approach will remove myself and my staff from the investigation process, reinforcing the impartiality of the review," Hepburn wrote.

Lynch-Walsh has argued district officials are trying to

retaliate against her because she identifies problems in the district and tries to hold it accountable.

"I hope they aren't thinking this (external review) avoids me providing them with a written response to the false statements, omission of fact, misrepresentations of fact and misleading information contained in the report," she told the South Florida Sun Sentinel.

In the complaint, Mastrianni wrote that Lynch-Walsh was using her official School Board sanctioned position as the chair of several committees to disparage him, arguing its a violation of the school district's policy on bullying and meeting decorum. Lynch-Walsh is the current chairwoman of the Audit Committee and District Advisory Council and was the recent chairwoman of the Facilities Task Force.

Lynch-Walsh criticized Mastrianni on March 20 and June 25, when the School Board met with members of district advisory committees. At the June 25 meeting, she questioned why the district had renewed him for another year and she called for him to be investigated.

"Lynch Walsh accused me of setting up a volunteer in an incident on October 17th, 2023, falsely arresting the volunteer and perjuring myself by writing a false police report," Mastrianni wrote in his July 24 complaint.

Multiple committees chairs had voiced concern about Espinoza's arrest, although Lynch-Walsh did much of the speaking at the two meetings. The concerns raised were part of "a committee chair consortium effort, not led solely by Dr. Lynch-Walsh," Narnike Pierre-Grant, chairwoman of the district's Diversity Committee, wrote in a Sept. 4 email to School Board members.

Michael Braverman, a lawyer who represents Mastrianni through the Broward Police Benevolent Association, told the Sun Sentinel he found it "unfortunate" that the district is starting the investigation over rather than moving forward with the recommendation to remove Lynch-Walsh from committees.

"The conduct is so egregious that yes, she should be removed," he said. "I don't think she's going to stop. It seems like she has some pretty strong views, and why would she be given this forum?"

The controversy involved Mastrianni's Oct. 17 arrest of Debbie Espinoza, a longtime district volunteer, during a heated School Board meet-

ing. He accused her of battery on a law enforcement officer, a felony. Braverman maintains it was a lawful arrest, although the State Attorney's Office declined to pursue charges.

A consultant hired by the district to review surveillance video questioned whether Espinoza's arrest was appropriate, saying Mastrianni had moved "easily within her (Espinoza's) personal space, which ultimately caused her to come into contact with him, resulting in her arrest."

In his complaint, Mastrianni said that review didn't recommend any discipline. However, the consultant agreement specifically says, "This review is not disciplinary or investigative in nature."

The review recommended the district conduct de-escalation training for police officers and security staff as well as make changes to meeting protocols, both of which the district has done.

Mastrianni's complaint criticized not only Lynch-Walsh, but also School Board members, some of whom agreed with her concerns at the June 25 meeting and encouraged Hepburn to conduct a personnel investigation on Mastrianni's actions.

One board member, Daniel Foganholi, publicly apologized to Espinoza at a June 25 meeting, which "all but indicts me as guilty in the court of public opinion, further damaging my reputation," Mastrianni wrote.

Foganholi couldn't be reached for comment.

Former Superintendent Peter Licata declined to launch a personnel investigation into Mastrianni in December, after the consultant's report came out. In July, Hepburn sent a memo to School Board members saying a six-month statute of limitations for investigating police officer complaints had expired.

"I want to emphasize that I will not tolerate a hostile work environment for our employees, students, or volunteers," Hepburn wrote in his email Thursday. "Our responsibility is to ensure a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all."

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Town of Highland Beach has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

- A. Initially proposed tax levy \$12,102,780
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes..... \$ 27,012
- C. Actual property tax levy \$12,075,768

This year's proposed tax levy \$13,106,035

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

5:01 P.M.

at

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
3614 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD
HIGHLAND BEACH, FLORIDA 33487

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH - FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

General Fund	3.4040
Voted Debt	0.1835

ESTIMATED REVENUES:		GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE - BUILDING DEPT.	SPECIAL REVENUE - SALES SURTAX	ENTERPRISE FUND - WATER	ENTERPRISE FUND - SEWER	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Taxes:	Millage per \$1,000						
Ad Valorem Taxes-Operating	3.4040	\$12,581,790					\$12,581,790
Ad Valorem Taxes-Voted Debt Service	0.1835	\$678,250					678,250
Sales and Use Taxes		515,000		415,000			930,000
Licenses and Permits			1,973,350				1,973,350
Intergovernmental Revenue		686,900					686,900
Charges for Services		1,111,000			3,702,396	1,973,647	6,787,043
Fines and Forfeitures		14,800	43,000				57,800
Miscellaneous Revenue		1,101,551	110,000	36,000	125,000	520,921	1,893,472
TOTAL SOURCES		16,689,291	2,126,350	451,000	3,827,396	2,494,568	25,588,605
Transfers In		1,050,000	55,000		220,000		1,325,000
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets			179,900	260,000	865,343		1,305,243
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS & BALANCES		\$17,739,291	\$2,361,250	\$711,000	\$4,912,739	\$2,494,568	\$28,218,848
EXPENDITURES:							
General Government		2,831,785					2,831,785
Public Safety		10,045,710	1,439,150				11,484,860
Public Works		505,510					505,510
Sanitation/Solid Waste		1,075,350					1,075,350
Physical Environment					2,991,970	1,824,568	4,816,538
Culture and Recreation		488,651					488,651
Capital Outlay		1,424,200	422,100	711,000	560,000	450,000	3,567,300
Debt Service		677,960			810,769		1,488,729
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		17,049,166	1,861,250	711,000	4,362,739	2,274,568	26,258,723
Transfers Out		55,000	500,000		550,000	220,000	1,325,000
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets		635,125					635,125
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES TRANSFERS, RESERVES & BALANCES		\$17,739,291	\$2,361,250	\$711,000	\$4,912,739	\$2,494,568	\$28,218,848

*The tentative, adopted, and / or final budgets are on file in the offices of the Town of Highland Beach, FL as a public record.

Contract

from Page 1

rial Hospital Pembroke, and numerous ancillary facilities, including a nursing home and urgent care centers.

Justen said the board and Wester were not on the same page about how to move the large and growing hospital system into the future.



Wester

"He didn't have a vision. When we asked him what his vision was, he couldn't articulate anything," she said. Wester had relocated to Broward County from Louisiana. Board members said Wester had good values and a grasp of health care, but he struggled to adapt to the diverse and fast-moving pace of the South Florida area.

"He was just not a proper fit," Justen said.

Wester said he learned of the board's dissatisfaction on Monday night and gave them his resignation Wednesday night. Wester earned an annual salary of \$1.47 million, and he will receive his salary for the remaining year on his contract.

"Memorial Health System is an incredible organization and has done so much to help the people of South Broward and all of South Florida," Wester said. "I couldn't be more proud of the leadership teams and all we have accomplished together. I am a deep believer in Memorial and will always offer my best to help the organization as much as I can."

Wester said he wants to stay

in the health care field, unsure of his next move. "It's time to reassess, recharge. Where the path leads me, I am not sure. Leadership is knowing when it is time to take another path."

David Smith, who serves as chief administrative officer and chief financial officer, will take on the role of interim CEO. Justen said the board will meet to discuss a strategy for finding a new CEO.

Board members told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that their mission is to ensure good health care for the people of Broward County and clarified that despite executive changes, the health system is well-positioned to serve anyone who needs care.

"We are financially strong and in a good position as a system to fill the needs of the community," said Laura Raybin Miller, a 25-year member of Memorial's board. "There are 400 leaders in our hospitals so it has never been about one person. I don't expect we will miss a beat."

"The last two years have been about delivering care in a more cost-effective manner," Raybin Miller said. "Going forward I think we need to focus on the primary care access for the community."

Raybin Miller said she also would like to return to looking for opportunities for Broward Health (known as the North Broward Hospital District) and Memorial (known as the South Broward Hospital District) to work together. The boards of the two systems met just as Wester came on board, but those meetings have since stopped.

"I am open to exploring mutual synergies and initiatives," she said.

South Florida Sun Sentinel health reporter Cindy