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August 24, 2012

Shane Stapley
527 East Jasper Drive
Gilbert AZ 85296-4135

Shane Stapley
3778 E Sheffield
Gilbert AZ 85296-8281

Re: Barb VeNard

Dear Mr. Stapley:

This firm represents Barb VeNard. We understand that you are responsible for the publication of the Gilbertschools.info website.

Please be advised that an article that you published on that website entitled "Did the 2007 Voter Approved Override Buy what GPS Promised?" contains false and defamatory information. The false statements include the following:

1. Barb VeNard, director of educational services and technology at Gilbert Public Schools, allegedly exchanged emails with her husband exchanging inside information in order to secure this deal with Hewlett Packard, her husband's company, during the bid process.

2. Jim VeNard left Hewlett Packard to work for a vendor of HP, shortly before the deal was final.
3. For Barb VeNard, after she swindled us into approving 57.4M to put technology in the classroom and now have to purchase the technology ourselves?

Ms. VeNard had the responsibility of upgrading the technology network for the Gilbert Public Schools. Contrary to the suggestions in your article, there was no "sweetheart" or inside deal with Hewlett Packard. On the contrary, the contract was placed with HP based upon the advice of an independent consultant. The deal with HP ended up saving the Gilbert Public Schools literally millions of dollars. HP's competitor, Cisco, who hoped to land the contract, was upset that it was not chosen and has made various false statements about the deal with HP.

Jim VeNard, Barb's husband, did not work for HP. He did work for a reseller of HP equipment. He was completely uninvolved in this transaction. He did not make one penny on this deal. Ms. VeNard did not exchange emails with her husband regarding inside information in order to secure the deal for HP. Ms. VeNard only forwarded certain information to her home email.

Your allegation that Ms. VeNard "swindled" the taxpayers is completely false and indeed outrageous. Finally, please be advised that Ms. VeNard had no oversight, input or responsibility for the override election. She was not in charge of technology at the Gilbert Public School District at the time the override passed.

Demand is hereby made upon you to cease and desist from making further derogatory, false and defamatory comments. We understand that you may have published this false information in places other than the Gilbertschools.info website. This demand applies to all publications of this material, on the Gilbertschools.info website or otherwise. Specifically, and without limitation, the aforementioned article should immediately be removed from the website. We also demand that you immediately publish a retraction of that article on the website and inform readers that the foregoing allegations were false. If these steps are not taken within one week from the date of this letter, my client will consider the appropriate legal action.

Very truly yours,



Timothy J. Thomason

TJT/mw

cc: Barb VeNard