

Glenda Scherer's comment to the Sunshine Committee special subcommittee
2/28/2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment to the subcommittee regarding my perspective on teacher misconduct and exemptions that the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission holds.

The investigative process for teacher and administrator misconduct must have public scrutiny for accountability, transparency and student safety.

Currently TSPC exemptions do not allow for disclosure of the investigation materials or reasons for the decision (when it's unfounded) even to the individual making the complaint. There is no way to verify that the investigation was done properly or that factual evidence was used for determining the outcome.

As an example, I filed a complaint against the Assistant Superintendent for Gladstone School District because he allowed an instructional assistant to work in my son's classroom while she was being investigated by the Gladstone Police Department and OTIS (the division of Department of Human Services that investigates 3rd party abuse) for abusing him. We were not offered any other educational options. And when asked for homebound instruction, the District refused.

I think most people would see Mr. Patterson's conduct of failing to place an employee on paid administrative leave at the expense of a 5 year old's access to special education services and public school for 7 months was misconduct and gross negligence. TSPC even states that impact to student(s) is taken into consideration. Yet, TSPC dismissed the charges..

Jeremiah Patterson's actions prevented my son from being able to attend his public school for 7 months, and I was never interviewed by the TSPC investigator.

As an educator myself, I find Mr. Paterson's actions to be reprehensible. I do not understand how he did not receive a public reprimand for his actions.

Currently, there is no way to have that investigation process evaluated for fairness and integrity.

As a compromise, I suggest that the investigation process, evidence, and final report be released to the person who made the complaint. This would allow for transparency and accountability.

