

Criminal Activity by Greenfield School Montana Officials

Location

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Synopsis

The story in plain English, as I have told it to numerous neighbors and government officials.

Last summer (2015), after months of delays by the Greenfield School, I, Duane Thresher of Thresher Networks, got a \$15,000 contract -- with a lot more donated as a community service since it's our child's local school -- to set up a safe, working computer and telephone network for the Greenfield School, whose existing one was a disaster. My wife actually learned about this urgent need from Greenfield School teacher Karen Gundlach in the Fairfield Community Choir.

While working at the school, I discovered some serious wrongdoings by Principal Paul Wilson and the Greenfield School Board: Mike Hager, Merv Carper, Spencer Pearson. Among other things (see below), they tried to cheat a student out of rightfully-earned scholarship money because they openly didn't like the student's parents and they crammed the 2nd-graders into a tiny room never meant to be a classroom (it was supposed to be the tutor room, now gone) because they misspent the \$80,000 in taxpayer construction funds -- no new classrooms even though they knew beforehand they would have an overflow of students in the fall; essentially just a new office for Principal Paul Wilson. School Board Member Merv Carper took the flooring contract and did so dangerously negligently.

When I made sure the student got the scholarship money by notifying the parents, who then demanded it, and notified Fairfield Fire Chief Ben Rhodes about a possible maximum occupancy fire safety violation in the 2nd-grade "classroom", I was immediately fired by Principal Paul Wilson and the Greenfield School Board. They then refused to pay me \$11,400 I had already put in the job, including materials and 200 hours of labor. I had made the mistake of being community service minded and trusting enough not to require Greenfield School to pay most of the cost until after the work was done. To make things much worse, I was barred from the school, which had the effect of barring my 5-year-old daughter from her local school,

preventing us from complaining at board meetings at the school, and allowing the school to steal some of my tools.

Perpetrators

- [Principal Paul Wilson](#) -- Salary \$55,188. Actually makes school board decisions (usually at the last minute and incompetently) because the current school board is irresponsible, incompetent and lazy and ceded authority to him. The principal is not part of the school board and is unelected. Wilson is not even a resident of the school district so should have less say than parents in the school district, like myself. As just one example of Wilson's unethical acts, to put it mildly, for the summer 2015 school construction, even though Wilson has a full-year school contract, he had arranged to take a summer job with one of the bidders, Burton Finish Carpentry, a friend of his, if they won. But despite the board extending the deadline to aid Burton, Burton was still unable to submit a valid bid and lost to Detailed Construction, who apparently had been angered by a deadline extension for Burton and threatened a lawsuit.
- Board Member **Michael Hager** -- Explicitly okayed Principal Paul Wilson's "arrangement" above. Also a member of the Teton Conservation District Board and thus a perpetrator in the [Weather Station Scandal](#).
- Board Member **Mervin Carper** -- Owns Merv's Floor Installation (Choteau), which got and did the wood floor installation work in the school in the days just before school started in Sep 2015. He did the work negligently and children were slipping and falling because of it.
- Board Member **Spencer Pearson**
- District Clerk **Rachelle Pearson** -- A close relative of Spencer Pearson and hired while Spencer Pearson was on the board. Proceeds as unlawfully as the former district clerk did.
- Former District Clerk **Caroline Forseth** -- Responsible for NOT properly advertising the supposedly-public school board meetings (most), as required by law and as the other schools in the area do. The meetings are thus essentially secret and no parents (or teachers, who are derided at them) have attended them in a long time, as the perpetrators intend. They have become so used to these meetings being secret they committed clearly unlawful actions right in front of me. (Although I was made to feel very unwelcome at the meetings.) Forseth also has the idea that if a meeting is not officially adjourned the board members can make decisions outside these meetings.
- **Unknown party** that got paid for my work and whose identity is being concealed by Principal Paul Wilson (a friend of his?).

Crimes

- [Theft of labor or services or use of property](#) -- After speaking up about the perpetrators cheating children out of scholarship money and wasting \$80,000 in taxpayer construction funds to the detriment of the children and the perpetrators' benefit, I was fired and they refused to pay the \$11,400 in materials and labor (including [198.5 documented on-site hours](#)) I had already installed and done. They also stole equipment I

had left on-site when, under threat of law enforcement, I was effectively barred from ever returning to the school; see below.

- [Unlawful use of a computer](#) -- I had designed and was installing a computer network. The perpetrators did not pay me for this so I still own it and they are using it without my consent. There is a specific law about this.
- [Conspiracy](#) -- The perpetrators got together and agreed to commit the offenses.
- [False reports to law enforcement authorities](#) -- On 25 Sep 2015 (see Evidence / Timeline below) Principal Paul Wilson called the sheriff on me from the school, while I was in Great Falls, and an hour later he informed me by email that I was fired, with no explanation. As I clearly posed no other threat, this false report was meant to prevent me from removing any materials or undoing any work since they clearly meant not to pay for these. The timing and lack of warning was such that a confrontation at the school during school hours was clearly intended, indicating they meant to intimidate me, particularly from ever again coming to the school, like for school board meetings and sending my 5-year-old daughter there.
- [Tampering with witnesses and informants](#) -- I was fired because I was making public that the perpetrators cheated children out of scholarship money and wasted \$80,000 in taxpayer construction funds to the detriment of the children and the perpetrators' benefit. Not paying me what I was owed, which has been a severe financial hardship to my family, was meant to silence and intimidate me, as was the false report to law enforcement.
- [Criminal defamation](#) -- As the perpetrators knew it would be, the report to law enforcement was reported in the Fairfield Sun Times and the Choteau Acantha (see below), defaming me, for the purposes of silencing and intimidating me, by making me look like a threat to the school.

Criminal Penalties

- All of the listed crimes have jail time as penalties (click on the crime links). If this seems harsh -- and you didn't have \$11,400 stolen from you -- consider that the first crime, theft of labor or services or use of property, is at least as bad as writing a bad check for \$11,400 (combined with the other crimes it is worse). The false report to law enforcement is clear evidence the perpetrators had no intention of paying. (Actually, since law enforcement was used to steal from me it is more like armed robbery.) The crimes also have fines but the perpetrators would try to have the taxpayers pay those.

Civil Rights Violations

- Under threat of law enforcement, I, and thus also my 5-year-old daughter, were effectively barred from our school district public school, including public school board meetings. My daughter is now homeschooled.
- Law enforcement refused to respond to a complaint from me.

Ethics Violations

Violations of laws covering public officials will be listed here.

Evidence / Timeline

- 21 Nov 2015 -- Greenfield received [my letter](#) responding to their letter of 13 Nov 2015. I point out to them a lot of what I've pointed out on this web page.
- 13 Nov 2015 -- Received [Greenfield's letter](#) responding to my past due letter of 3 Nov 2015. They confessed to, and thus provided undeniable evidence for, the first 3 crimes listed. Ridiculously, not only did they say they were only going to pay how much they thought my contracted work already done was worth but what they thought it was worth was, in an amazing coincidence (sarcasm), the same as the total amount they had already paid me 6 weeks before they fired me. Also ridiculous was their trying to give a reason for firing me 7 weeks after doing so and the reason itself, which I prove to be completely bogus and a cover up for the real reason I have given above.
- 3 Nov 2015 -- Greenfield received [my past due letter](#). To find out in a timely manner whether they intended to pay me at all, I had set the first due date as 10 business days after bill receipt and the first late fee relatively large.
- 16 Oct 2015 -- Greenfield received [my final bill letter](#). To help the school, I had agreed to donate a large part of the labor, since otherwise they could not afford such a project. To allow the project to fit Greenfield's budget I agreed to a \$15,000 cap. When they fired me (breached the contract) I had, well before, reached the cap and all further labor was being donated. To make it easier on the school I had agreed to be paid mostly at the end of the project.
- 6 Oct 2015 -- After finally reading the Fairfield Sun Times below, sent a [complaint email](#) to the Teton County Sheriff's Office, including much of the evidence given here. I never received a response from them. At least one member of the Teton County Sheriff's Office has children in the Greenfield School and is friends with Principal Paul Wilson. We worry whether the Sheriff's Office could ignore any complaint from us.
- 1 Oct 2015 -- The Fairfield Sun Times [reported](#) "09/25/2015 Fairfield - The principal of Greenfield School requested a deputy be present when they ask a worker to collect his things and go." The Greenfield School is in Fairfield, which is a small town. It would not be hard to realize the worker was me.
- 30 Sep 2015 -- The Choteau Acantha [reported](#) "Sept. 25 - 12:15 p.m., a deputy assisted a school official with an employee issue".
- Fri 25 Sep 2015
 - 5:48 PM -- Having returned home about an hour earlier from Great Falls and having read the preceding email and not wanting any trouble at the school, I simply sent an [email](#) to Principal Paul Wilson saying that all further interaction would be done through the legal system.
 - 1:13 PM -- An hour after calling the sheriff on me, Principal Paul Wilson finally sent me an [email](#) firing me, unexpectedly and without explanation, and barring me from the Greenfield School without sheriff escort. I was never contacted by the sheriff either and warned to stay away from the school during school hours. Apparently, the plan was that I should show up at the school and there should be a confrontation there. It's obvious (see below) I was fired for speaking up about the perpetrators cheating children out of scholarship money and wasting \$80,000 in

- taxpayer construction funds to the detriment of the children and the perpetrators' benefit. (Note that my phone listed one, and only one, missed call from the Greenfield School 6 minutes earlier than the email, at 1:07 PM; no answering machine.)
- o 12:15 PM -- "A deputy assisted a school official with an employee issue", Teton County sheriff's docket, Choteau Acantha, [30 Sep 2015](#). That is, an hour before informing me, Principal Paul Wilson called the sheriff on me.
 - o 11:50 AM -- Went to Great Falls and [bought](#) \$1000 of materials for the Greenfield School job. I obviously had no expectation of being fired.
 - o 10:01 AM -- Sent an [email](#) to Principal Paul Wilson about how the delay in setting up the computer lab for keyboarding classes was his fault (since he did not tell me), demanding a public apology for the slander of blaming it on me, and saying he should also publicly apologize to the parents for trying to deceive them and their child out of scholarship money to which their child was entitled.
 - Thu 24 Sep 2015
 - o 12:45 to 6:00 PM -- Worked [on-site](#) at the Greenfield School with no complaints.
 - o 4:52 PM -- Received an [email](#) from Fairfield Fire Chief Ben Rhodes. The Greenfield School Resource Room (a.k.a. Tutor Room), never intended to be a classroom, was within maximum safe occupancy limits for the 2nd grade class but just barely and he would talk to Principal Paul Wilson about my safety concerns. Note that the recommended minimum classroom size for teaching is about twice this maximum safe occupancy limit. The 2nd-graders are thus being educationally shortchanged even after taxpayers just spent \$80,000 for new construction. My complaints were an embarrassing publicizing of this.
 - o Morning -- Exchanged a series of emails with Principal Paul Wilson about setting up the computer lab for keyboarding classes now that I knew about this need.
 - Wed 23 Sep 2015
 - o 12:45 to 5:45 PM -- Worked [on-site](#) at the Greenfield School with no complaints.
 - o 12:28 AM -- Received an [email](#) from the Greenfield School parent I had warned saying that he had talked to the Greenfield School about the scholarship money they tried not to tell him about and he had gotten what his child was entitled to. This was an embarrassing publicizing of the perpetrators' deception.
 - o 10:31 AM -- Sent an [email](#) to Fairfield Fire Department asking about maximum safe occupancy of Greenfield School Resource Room.
 - Tue 22 Sep 2015
 - o 12:45 to 5:45 PM -- Worked [on-site](#) at the Greenfield School with no complaints; had in fact talked to Principal Paul Wilson about a work priority list.
 - o 11:30 AM -- Sent an [email](#) to Greenfield School parents about Principal Paul Wilson and the Board trying to deceive the parents' child out of scholarship money to which their child was entitled.
 - Mon 21 Sep 2015 -- 7 PM board meeting at the Greenfield School, attended only by Principal Paul Wilson, Board Members Mike Hager and Merv Carper, incoming District Clerk Rachelle Pearson, outgoing District Clerk Caroline Forseth, and me.
 1. I submitted a [project report](#). It was contentious because the work was not finished by the others' hoped-for finish date. No finish date was ever specified in the contract, so certainly no penalty for not meeting it, and in fact the construction and flooring contractors (Board Member Merv Carper) were not even finished.

2. Principal Paul Wilson lied and slandered me by blaming me for the delay in starting keyboarding classes when in fact this was due to his negligently failing to notify me of this need so I could do something about it.
 3. It was finally agreed by all that I would try to finish by mid-October.
 4. I (and my wife who was not present) submitted an [objection](#) to the last-minute use of the Resource Room (a.k.a. Tutor Room) as the 2nd grade classroom. The Resource Room is far too small for the 2nd grade class (it was never intended as a classroom at all), and we thought it might even violate maximum occupancy fire safety codes (it's also supposed to be used for Special Education). We offered some solutions and I suggested that at least the parents should be notified. All of our concerns and suggestions were derided and dismissed.
 5. I made a point of other safety issues. Board Member Merv Carper apparently had given himself the wood flooring contract. He did the work a few days before the start of school but did so negligently and the floors were so slippery that students were slipping and falling. This was compounded by the construction contractors not having put in the hand rail on the wood floor ramp and a hole left in the Kindergarten class wood floor into the crawlspace that a Kindergartener could put at least his/her arm through, possibly a leg. Board Member Merv Carper agreed the floor was unsafe and a legal liability and to redo it.
 6. Principal Paul Wilson talked about a scholarship available to all students who had graduated from the Greenfield School and gone on to college. He said he had contacted all those eligible "except for [student]" who he and the Board arbitrarily decided already had enough other scholarship money. The Board had publicly derided the student's parents at a couple of previous board meetings.
- Tue 16 Jun 2015 -- 7 PM board meeting at the Greenfield School, attended only by Principal Paul Wilson, Board Members Mike Hager and others, District Clerk Caroline Forseth, L'Heureux Page Werner architect Max Grebe (bid taker) and me.
 1. Weeks past when the construction should have already started, bids on it were considered. Detailed Construction submitted a complete valid bid on time. Burton Finish Carpentry submitted an incomplete invalid late bid. Detailed Construction knew this and threatened a lawsuit if they didn't win the contract. Still, much of the meeting was spent scheming how to give the contract to Burton Finish Carpentry. It was finally decided to give (only) Burton Finish Carpentry even more time to submit a valid bid. (Even after this time they couldn't submit a valid bid.) Later, right in front of me, Principal Paul Wilson and Board Member Mike Hager discussed how Brian Burton had offered his friend Paul Wilson, who has a full-year school contract, summer work in exchange for influencing who won the contract; Board Member Mike Hager said it was all fine.

More to come, particularly that due to their incompetence the perpetrators wasted \$80,000 in taxpayer money to the detriment of the children and the perpetrators' benefit.

Lawsuits

The criminal and civil lawsuit documents will be made available here.

Warnings and Observations

- Warning: The children are at risk from predators. The school's computer and telephone network, particularly its security, was a shambles when I was hired. I was hired because I was [far more qualified](#) than anyone else. I was not finished when I was fired so it is thus almost certainly still a very insecure system. Think I am overstating this danger? In previous work I discovered a [pedophile sexual predator](#) supplying computers to libraries and possibly schools.
- Warning: The education of the 2nd graders is suffering. They are now crammed into a room never intended to be a classroom and so small it barely meets maximum occupancy fire safety codes and is only half the recommended minimum classroom size for teaching.
- Warning: The education of children who require tutoring is suffering. They are now being tutored in loud public variable locations since the tutoring room became the 2nd-grade "classroom".
- Warning: Other parents and children, and in other years, may have been cheated out of scholarship money they were entitled to. They should check.
- Warning: Taxpayer money by the thousands is being wasted by the perpetrators.
- Given all the above crimes all of the perpetrators are obviously immoral. Besides being the principal, Paul Wilson is also the 7th/8th grade teacher. I, and I think most parents in the school district, do not want such an immoral person teaching their children (his actions teach them it's OK to lie, cheat and steal). He should be fired both as principal and teacher. If this seems harsh note that a [Missoula principal](#) recently lost her job for an apparently honest mistake, although she had the decency to resign.
- The same can be said for the other perpetrators in their offices. Moreover, School Board Member Michael Hager is also a member of the Teton Conservation District Board and thus already a perpetrator in the [Weather Station Scandal](#).
- Warning: Board Member Mervin Carper's business, Merv's Floor Installation, does dangerously negligent work, although from his actions it appears it is OK to hire him to do some work and then not pay him.
- Warning: People doing business with the Greenfield School may not get paid. At the very least they should get full payment up front. This warning applies to doing business with the individual perpetrators as well.
- I doubt there are many that could work hard for two months of the year, not get paid for it, and not be in serious trouble financially. And this happened to me and my family right before Christmas.

Web Page Legality

- This web page obviously does not pretend to be the official Greenfield School website, which would be illegal.
- This web page might have been reached from greenfieldschool-mt.info (or greenfieldschool-mt.com, greenfieldschool-mt.net, or greenfieldschool-mt.org) but its real address is shown in the address bar. I legally own all these [greenfieldschool-mt](#) domain names. They are available to the Greenfield School from me in return for the

\$11,400 (plus late fees) and equipment they stole from me.

- It is not libel if what is said is true, especially if there is overwhelming evidence to prove that. Personal opinions are protected by the First Amendment.