

Clifton Journal  
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not limited to questioning the contractor and his employees, questioning the head of buildings and grounds, contacting and questioning neighbors for possible video surveillance tapes.

Rather, as in past controversies or "gates," the administration and BOE began their "cover-up" of the incident. Here are the facts which cannot be covered up. Al Marchione (head of buildings and grounds) told me and a witness repeatedly when asked if he authorized any work to be done in woods answered "no." His own presentation in front of the BOE showed no work was to be done in the woods and only the 25 trees in front of the school were to be

ing key discussions; cutting down of trees without following the proper procedure; trees cut down in the woods adjacent to School 16 without authorization; uniform surveys sent out without full board approval; lies about committees being able to spend money up to a certain dollar threshold; information withheld from certain board members; district personnel snow plowing private property in another city; not reporting to legal authorities questionable behavior between a minor and a district representative; questionable motives for hiring outside vendors; repeated violations of transparency; - there is a common thread - this board has vio-

lated its fiduciary obligations to act as a trustee for assets that belong to the public.

It is beyond comprehension that any business administrator or auditor would allow scholarship money to lay dormant for 20 years and then not to have BOE commissioners (with one exception) question why and who allowed this to happen. It is beyond comprehension that when a reported possible "theft" of public property (the cutting down of the trees in School 16 woods without written documentation authorizing this work) was reported to the BOE and administration it was not reported to the Clifton Police for a full investigation including and

cut down. The contract itself makes no mention of trees being cut down in the middle of the woods.

As reported in the *Clifton Journal* Feb 26 article, Marchione said "he did not know the origin of the sawdust piles within the forested area and said to contact Rich Tree Service."

The BOE president reported to the *Clifton Journal* that there had been a meeting between the school administration and Rich Tree Service - a fact most other BOE members were unaware of and had no written correspondence from the administration about this meeting or its outcome. Rather, sources are reporting that Marchione's story has now changed and is claiming he gave permission to have the trees in the woods cut down - again without board knowledge and approval.

I for one believe this new story to be bogus and yet another "gate" scandal has begun. I urge each and every BOE member to start upholding your fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of Clifton and start acting and ensuring these assets are protected.

Mary Sadrakula  
Clifton

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**Board out of control**

Whatever topic you pick - \$73,000 in scholarship money dormant for 20 years; violating OPRA and OPMA; minutes from committee meetings miss-

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