

**JOINT STATEMENT OF
THE SMITHVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DR. RUDY PAPENFUHS
REGARDING THE STATEMENT OF CHARGES ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2014**

The Smithville School District and Dr. Rudy Papenfuhs issue the following joint statement regarding the Statement of Charges that was issued to Dr. Papenfuhs on September 24, 2014:

The parties agree that the following facts demonstrate Dr. Papenfuhs's violations of Board Policies GBCB, Staff Conduct, and GBH, Staff-Student Relations, as it relates to failure to maintain boundaries with students, that would subject Dr. Papenfuhs to discipline up to and including termination:

- a. On or about September 4th, 2014, Dr. Papenfuhs provided a male student of the District with over-the-counter allergy medication on school property.
- b. During the summer of 2014, Dr. Papenfuhs provided a male student of the District with prescription topical cream, prescribed to Dr. Papenfuhs. The student had the medication in his possession at school on September 12, 2014.
- c. Dr. Papenfuhs frequently pulls certain students out of classes for an extended period of time on a regular basis.
- d. Dr. Papenfuhs added a current student of the District to his cell phone plan from April 2014 to September 2014.
- e. Dr. Papenfuhs has used material gifts and privileges he has bestowed upon students as leverage for encouraging certain behavior by the students such as attendance and grades and social media behavior consistent with his expectations.
- f. Dr. Papenfuhs attended a pre-season Kansas City Chiefs game, a nonwork setting, with a current student of the District during the 2014-15 school year. No parent or guardian of the student was present at that event.
- g. Dr. Papenfuhs provided tickets to students to a Royals game that Dr. Papenfuhs and another adult also attended. The students drove separately to the game. No parent or guardian of the student was present at that event.
- h. On multiple occasions, Dr. Papenfuhs has driven students in his personal vehicle, including driving students to the gym and to medical appointments. No parent or guardian was present in the vehicle on these occasions, but Dr. Papenfuhs believes that he had the consent of the parents of those students.
- i. Dr. Papenfuhs allowed a student to drive his vehicle to the parts store to purchase car parts for Dr. Papenfuhs's vehicle.
- j. Dr. Papenfuhs expressed, on at least one occasion, via text message to a student that he "loved" him.
- k. During the school day and in the presence of staff members, Dr. Papenfuhs made a comment to a student who had his hands in his pocket and implied that the student was touching himself through his pockets when admonishing students to act socially appropriately.
- l. On or about September 16th, 2013, Dr. Papenfuhs's was issued a written reprimand for telling an inappropriate and sexually explicit joke to 6 male students of the District during lunch period, a violation of both Board Policy GBCB and Board Policy GBH. That memo required him to maintain appropriate relationships with

students in the future and was a direction given to him by Superintendent, Dr. Todd Schuetz. Dr. Papenfuhs's conduct described herein exemplifies numerous failures to follow the direction given by Dr. Schuetz on September 16th, 2013, constituting willful and persistent violations of Board Policy GBCB.

It is the hope of Dr. Papenfuhs, Dr. Schuetz, and the District that this matter can be put behind all of the parties concerned. The hope is that the focus and efforts of the District can be returned to its mission of educating all students in a premier learning environment and developing students to serve as proactive, compassionate leaders in an interconnected world by providing rigorous and meaningful opportunities for each student to reach his/her unique and full potential while being good stewards of our resources and investing in quality staff.

Dr. Papenfuhs, Dr. Schuetz, and the Board of Education sincerely hope the community will join them in putting this matter to rest and turning attention to helping the school in its effort to meet the needs of the growing community.