

McBride must be defeated!

During the general election campaign of 2006, I asked Jim McBride for material that he would not produce. On the off-chance that I might be able to get some of what I sought from his short-term employment as superintendent of schools in Bennett, Colorado, I drove down there the day after a blizzard had closed the schools in the Denver area. As luck would have it, the superintendent at the time was in his office, as was his secretary. I asked for a copy of McBride's contract and that was provided. The secretary asked if there was anything else I'd like a copy of and I told her "everything in the file that I can have." She told me nothing more could be provided to me. The superintendent had been looking at the file while we spoke and he asked me if I'd like a copy of McBride's evaluations. Would I!

I had no idea the treasure trove those Evaluations represented. I could tell from the way the guy was acting that they were not favorable to McBride. I paid for my copies and beat a fast retreat - I didn't want him to change his mind. He had told the secretary that those Evaluations were public records under Colorado law and I was entitled to have a copy of them.

Nonetheless, I didn't stop for lunch or for any other reason - I headed for the Wyoming border. Quickly!

It was not until I stopped to read what was in the Evaluations that I realized that I had the proof I had believed existed of McBride's incompetence which, theretofore, had not been requested, seen nor reviewed by anyone else in Wyoming. Not the Republican State Party Central Committee, not the governor, not the Department of Education when they first hired McBride, no other Wyoming media. No one. How did I get it? I asked for it.

I am re-publishing what appears below and in the right column because it is important that Wyoming primary election voters understand that McBride's failings as State Superintendent of Public Instruction were predictable. His track record in public education is failure. He would not improve in another term. In addition to what is on this page, refer to the Cheyenne Herald website (October 2006 issues) for the Evaluations and other stories. McBride threatened to sue me and the Bennett School District for release of this information. He didn't. And he won't.

Bennett, Colorado School District 29-J Superintendent Evaluations on Jim McBride

April 15, 2002 Superintendent Evaluation (from the Bennett, CO school district files)

- You appear to be struggling with the budgetary process and the concept that the operation of the school district is tied to the adopted budget.
 - You have shown impulsiveness in administration, appointment and or promotion of district personnel.
 - You do not seem to understand the relationship that exists between the Board and the superintendent. ... The superintendent does not direct the Board, the superintendent advises the Board.
 - ... You have a problem in uniting people to work toward a common goal. Therefore, there is not a clear and consistent sense of direction. A trend has emerged in that you do not involve the appropriate people in the decision making process of the district.
 - ... However, due to your impulsive nature you limit the opinions of others, you do not explore implications and options as you should, you avoid careful problem analysis, i.e. you do not anticipate how people will react to your decisions and proposals.
 - ... your ability to delegate research and information gathering to district staff that should be done by the superintendent, so that other members of the staff do not become overloaded, you need to retain much of this responsibility.
 - Several times you have "passed the buck" and made the Board or Board members responsible for your errors in communication.
 - Because you have a problem listening to people, you are perceived as not attentive in trying to grasp ideas expressed by others.
 - You say you want productive relationships with others, however, you fail to develop those relationships, e.g. board and superintendent, lack of teamwork with business manager on financial affairs, failure to consult with technology director before planning for future technology needs. (CH Note: His technology program was dissolved after he was terminated.)
 - You want good morale but because of previously noted communications skills, morale is hurt because of, e.g. broken promises and untimely statements about what is possible and abruptly changing plans.
 - Your district office ... is not a locker room. The office should not have clothes, shoes, and other personal items tossed about at any time. Current practice makes the women in the office very uncomfortable.
 - You are not a good listener, you are rude at meetings around the district by constantly interrupting and disrupting the meetings with your comments and stories. You constantly get the wrong interpretation of the conversation by not listening. You are perceived as a person that talks at others, not with them.
 - You need to become more aware of conduct and comments towards the women of the district. You are making comments that can easily be construed as sexual harassment.
- Note: This Evaluation was signed by Jim McBride and Dennis Smialek, Board President**

October 14, 2002 Superintendent Evaluation (McBride received no "Outstanding" grades)

- 1.12 Maintains the appropriate budgetary procedures and prepares and submits to the Board the annual proposed operating budget.
Business manager does all this for him, assistance from Board members
 - Part I Remarks: *McBride brings no support to the staff - does not know school law, finance - does not know how to work with subordinates - orders things done. Delegates things to people that he should be doing*
 - 2.8 Unites people toward a common goal.
Is not in position to unite, too much division
 - 2.10 Demonstrates the vision of a District of excellence.
Strives for excellence, but lacks personal skills to get us there
 - Part II Remarks: *Have seen very little leadership demonstrated. Cannot focus on more than one issue at a time. Does not see the larger picture for the district. Doesn't know what the goals are for the district. Blames staff for his failures.*
 - 3.1 Makes timely decisions.
Unaware of many decisions he has made
 - 3.2 Displays an image of confidence
Displays confidence, but backpedals quickly!
 - Part III Remarks: *Seems to be unable to determine what problem is important and how to approach the situation. Always "passes the buck" and keeps praise for himself. Does not consult with entire board. "Passes the buck" every chance he gets when it's his problem. Many times, has placed board members, other administrative staff in difficult positions with the public because he can't make difficult decisions and he constantly "passes the buck" when the solution isn't pretty and then he can accept the praise to make him look good. He sabotages the board and staff constantly.*
 - Part IV Remarks: *Wants to (promote good morale) but does not seem to be able. Interpersonal skills are very poor. **NOT** interested in others, what they think or feel. McBride is insincere, and strives to make himself look good at the expense of others. McBride is not a good listener. Dr. McBride has taken information out of executive sessions and spoke to members of the staff and public about the information. The board does not have any level of trust in McBride. He has been caught in several indiscretions on the truth concerning issues of his leadership.*
 - Part V Remarks: *He rudely and constantly interrupts. He is not a good listener, does not take other people's ideas - **TAKES** credit for other people's ideas and accomplishments.*
- Note: Text in italics is what was handwritten on the Evaluation form by the board president.

This Superintendent Evaluation was signed by McBride, Smialek, and the other four Bennett school board members on, October 28, 2002 - when McBride's employment was terminated.

Read both Superintendent Evaluation reports in their entirety at www.cheyenneherald.com

In my opinion, Jim McBride was relieved of his job in Bennett, Colorado, not only because he was incompetent (as his Evaluations reflect) but, more importantly, because he was a financial risk to the school district due to his odd personal behavior. Based on written records and verbal representations made to me, I believe he was perceived as a risk to the district for a sexual harassment claim.

Editor's note (August 2, 2010): The following was written in October, 2006. The comments and criticism are still valid --

Will voters elect a man who has never been a Wyoming classroom teacher; never been a Wyoming public school principal; never been a Wyoming school district superintendent; has had no children educated in Wyoming schools; did not attend Wyoming schools or UW himself; and registered to vote in Wyoming elections for the first time in 2004? Will Wyoming voters elect such a man to be their Superintendent of Public Instruction? Jim McBride takes credit for the Hathaway Scholarship. He had nothing to do with it. He takes credit for private school licensing. He had nothing to do with that. He takes credit for teacher pay raises. He had nothing to do with them. Will Wyoming voters elect such a man to be their Superintendent of Public Instruction? Barbara Cubin denigrates her opponent because he has lived in Wyoming for only 17 years. What must she think of Jim McBride? He has lived in Wyoming for only 3 1/2 years.

WHY WAIT FOR THE WEEKEND?

DAILY
OPEN HOUSES

America's Leading Discount
Real Estate Company

Assist Sell

802 E. Lincolnway -- 634-2997

SOMETHING NEW TO VIEW EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK!

Complete list available at wesellcheyennehomes.com

We will sell your Home for as low as \$2,995