

McBride is unqualified

Jim ... Dr. Jim ... Jim McBride ... James M. McBride ... Dr. Jim McBride. Whatever name he wants to use, this is a guy who is in way over his head.

The current Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction (appointed, not elected) has been one lucky dude.

A Peter Principle example. Cubed.

When he retired from the Air Force in 2001, he landed a job as superintendent of schools in tiny Bennett, Colorado. The district has an enrollment of less than 1,100 in its four public schools, PK-12 grades.

Based on Bennett school board meeting minutes, he took that job right after he retired from the Air Force (December 2001) but held it until only November 1, 2002, when minutes reflect a sudden and unexplained resignation.

According to a reliable source knowledgeable about his time in Bennett, McBride's tenure was "stormy."

In an effort to get an explanation from Jim McBride as to why he left his job in Bennett, Colorado, just two-plus months into a new school year and less than a year after he was hired, a request for answers was hand-delivered to his office on Monday, September 11th.

He chose not to respond by press time.

He did not leave his job in Colorado to accept a position in the Wyoming Department of Education. Trent Blankenship was not elected until after McBride "resigned" down there and Trent didn't bring McBride onboard until several months later.

More and more stories are coming to the Cheyenne Herald concerning the arrogance of Jim McBride. Not only did we learn that he has never visited what some might consider the most "in-need" school districts in the state, he also conveys an "entitlement" attitude about the job he inherited.

How the Republican Central Committee chose to forward his name as one of the three from which a governor of the other party would name an unelected Superintendent of Public Instruction is unfathomable. They had to know (of course, they've recently proven they really don't know a helluva lot) that the governor would pick the weakest link - and he did.

For the two years that McBride has pretended to be Superintendent, he has not been able to function without the guidance of one of the candidates who was not chosen by Dave Freudenthal.

Now that she is leaving the Department, what will McBride do? He cannot do much without her hand up his back, speaking the words and moving his mouth. The other candidate not chosen had 26 years as a superintendent in Wyoming public education.

McBride's experience, except as a teacher in Delaware a quarter century earlier, and as a failed superintendent in tiny Bennett, Colorado for only a few months, was in the military.

The difference in DOD schools and public schools in Wyoming is huge. Until he became Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction by lottery, he had zero experience with schools in this state.

An example of his arrogance and disdain for employees of the public education system was shown in answers he gave a reporter who was doing a story on campaign contributions of his and his opponent, Michelle Hoffman. He said, according to that story, that "many of the individuals who supported her [Michelle Hoffman] were people whose jobs I terminated or contractors who had not had their contracts renewed under my command."

He also said seeking campaign contributions from employees in Wyoming's education system could be "perceived as coercion of some sort" and he didn't do it. Coerce them.

Elsewhere, he proudly claimed to have terminated 18 management-level employees of DOE when he took over. His delight about firing people probably comes from being in a position in the military where he had no authority to that.

When a person is excited about terminating the employment of people who were peers before he was gifted with his current position, something is terribly wrong with his/her morals.

To ascertain who he was referring to as "many of her supporters," the Herald letter of September 11th asked him to identify (from a provided list of contributors to the Hoffman campaign) who had been employed at DOE when he became Superintendent or who were the contractors. He was provided a list of his own campaign contributors and was asked to identify any names on that list who were, or had been, DOE employees or contractors - if any.

He was also given an opportunity to retract the claim he had made that he did not solicit campaign contributions from employees in the "Wyoming education system." The Cheyenne Herald has evidence to the contrary.

McBride was asked: "Were you employed as the Superintendent of Schools in Bennett, Colorado when you were hired by the Wyoming DOE? If you had already terminated that employment, please tell me the circumstances of the termination."

In the event Jim McBride does not respond to the questions asked of him, the Cheyenne Herald will share with its readers (in a future issue) the reason(s) we have learned he left his short-time Colorado employment and we will refute his claim that he didn't solicit employees.

Boulder's blunder

John Mark Carr didn't do it

Where was Tom Koby when we needed him?

Where was Alex Hunter when we needed him?

Everybody in the civilized world, with the notable exception of Mary Keenan Lacey, knew the twerp from Thailand wasn't involved in the death of Jon Benet Ramsey.

As obvious as it was, even Dr. Phil had it figured out. Yet, the Boulder D.A.'s office arranged to fly the creep back to the United States, while pouring him champagne and feeding him as though he were the Dalai Lama.

What is it about Boulder? Is there something in the bottled water those yahoos drown themselves in?

It's a little surprising that Kiddie Carr didn't realize that Boulder authorities were gullible enough to mail him anywhere he'd like to visit. He could have confessed to playing a role in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway and been able to pick up some rays in Aruba before summer ended.

The DNA didn't match? That's not all that didn't match. The fact that the jerk's divorced wife provided him an airtight alibi a thousand miles away from Boulder when he said he was in the Ramsey house should have been some kind of clue to Mary and her Lambs.

Divorced spouses aren't inclined to lie to help each other out of tight scrapes. Yet the Boulder DA had to have DNA tests to determine the guy had conned her out of a plane ride to the States from Thailand.

Gas prices in Cheyenne

Will the time come when consumers hijack gas tankers? Or siphon from them as they travel the interstate?

On September 12, 2006, the average price for regular unleaded gas in the United States was \$2.62. In Cheyenne, the lowest price found was \$2.73.

In Iowa on the same day, the lowest price found was \$2.05. Sixty-eight cents a gallon less in Iowa - with a state gas tax of eight and a half cents higher than Wyoming's?

What is going on here?

Should there be a correlation in gas prices, based on the state's gas tax? Or should gas prices be lower in state's with refineries?


Wyoming Senator Enzi proposed holding an investigation into price gouging when he believed it was an oil company issue. Where is he to protect Wyoming consumers? Has he gone mute?



Mrs. Cubin, of course, is tightly tucked into the back pocket of the energy companies and isn't about to raise their ire by questioning just what the hell is going on even though her Wyoming constituents are paying higher prices at the pump than the average American. Wyoming state gas taxes are third lowest in the 50 states - higher only than Georgia and Alaska. At presstime, the lowest prices in Iowa were below the \$2.00 a gallon mark.

"Drake Hill, line one please. Jim McBride calling."

Those of us who do not want to see Jim McBride elected Superintendent of Schools are hoping, no, make that imploring, Drake Hill to put his best efforts behind that candidacy. It is certain that Craig Thomas doesn't want, and will not allow, Hill's interference in his campaign. Ditto Barbara Cubin. State candidates Rita Meyer, Joe Meyer and Max Maxfield have seen enough to keep Hill at arm's length. He's already hurt Ray Hunkins. But, the Republican Party is determined to keep Drake Hill involved so the Cheyenne Herald (which supports the candidacy of Democrat Michelle Hoffman) encourages Drake Hill to lend his services to the campaign of Jim McBride. Perhaps he could accuse Michelle of using the state planes for something (she didn't, of course). So, please, Mr. Chairman, as a personal favor, help Jim McBride.



SANDWICH SPECIAL
Hot Ham & Cheese
Large Drink
Large Fries
\$4.99 plus tax

Burger Inn
Pershing & Snyder

MAXIE MONDAYS - \$1.25