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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my concern in regard to the basketball coaching position at Renaissance High School. As you are aware, I have been dragged through the media with a bunch of false accusations, blatant lies, harassment and bullying. I am a wife, mother of three, and faithful educator who should not be treated this way by another DPSCD employee.

My decision was not based on an alleged affair that Mr. Jordan has conjured because he cannot accept that early on I found his character to be questionable and wanted better for the young men of Renaissance. For one thing, sending a student, a sexually explicit text message is never a joke. Based on my staff, the student brought the information to administration because he was concerned and uncomfortable. I found that Mr. Jordan has a dubious character, poor decision-making skills, and conduct not conducive to an adult whose primary job is to serve as a role model. It was my intent to find, what I believe, is the best person for this position. To me, that was not Mr. Jordan. As principal, I have the right to hire and fire athletic coaches. I merely exercised that right and should not have to go through this based on that decision.

At this point, the team has moved on. Our new coach represents not only Renaissance, but the district as well. The team has bought into his philosophy and practices. We will have a great season. I anticipate a lot of growth from our young men both on and off the court. Our parents are also pleased and have had no complaints whatsoever.

I am grateful for the support that the district has provided. I am hopeful that as this fiasco continues, the truth about this situation prevails. I am holding my head high knowing that I have not broken the law and that my intention was to hire someone who I believed was qualified both as a teacher on the court and a teacher in life. As the weeks continue to pass, I can't help but see that based on the activity that continues to come from Mr. Jordan, that I have indeed made the right choice to let him go.

I cannot continue to not let my voice be heard while Mr. Jordan continues to spew lies in the media. I am requesting that this information be added on my behalf with information that the district provides to the media.

Educationally yours,

Verynda Stroughter

Students Rise. We all Rise