

I would like to respond to some of the information coming out and the many calls, emails, and texts that I have received.

I have posted a response to the Barrington Hills Observer. While I approve of anyone printing my letter, as written and in its entirety, I prefer to continue to speak for myself. Again, everyone is entitled to their own perspective on what I have written, its credibility, and its implications but I want to be clear where I stand. Please see [here](#) for the letter and further down my response.

Again I was trying to avoid releasing additional information but between my call with Penny yesterday (4/4) and Sandra's post today, I think it is important for me to share what I know to be true and what I don't.

In response to Sandra's post – and others - which frames the meeting as an open event that many people were invited to, I now feel compelled to share my perspective on how the meeting progressed, what was discussed, and who was present (that I remember). To reiterate, I felt the meeting was private, which is why I did not share these details previously. Because of the counter information, and labeling of this as a public and “open meeting” I am now sharing the below recount.

I was invited to the call by Carolyn Osterhues via phone, she was given my number. The call was explained to me to be a “very informal gathering” with candidates and community members but one that she herself could not attend. I was expecting a few parents along with some other candidates. When I joined the video call I was surprised by the number of people; I don't remember the exact number – that is true. I do remember that when I joined, conversations were underway, and I sat waiting for other candidates to join and an introduction to be made. There were enough people on the call and seemingly familiar with one another that my joining went unnoticed for a few minutes. Eventually Maria Peterson began the meeting, everyone introduced themselves to me, and she explained they were a group looking to diversify the board and get candidates of color on. That said, it was explained to me that they were interested in my teaching background. I was asked to tell them a little about myself. My personal notes are listed below with slight edits to make them understandable to others.

At this time Penny told me that she would like to further discuss some of my concerns with the board at a later time and Sandra said she'd be happy to help how she could. Next I was asked what my views on diversity were. I asked what they meant by diversity in this context and they directed me to Dear Barrington, Be the Change, and a Board Meeting on 10/1 (notes below). In addition I was asked about how I felt about gun safety in people's homes (notes below). They then they gave me some advice about financing (notes below).

Finally, a couple of people – to include Penny and Sandra - put their names and numbers in the chat so I could follow up with them. These are some of the people who were on the call and subsequent emails following:

- ◆ Bradford, Sandra,
- ◆ Busse, Kendall,
- ◆ Handley, Helen
- ◆ Isaacson, Annette
- ◆ Kazimer, Penny
- ◆ Kelleher, Shahnaz
- ◆ Peterson, Maria
- ◆ Wanchalee ?

To be clear neither Penny nor Sandra asked me questions directly. Penny did address me directly during the meeting when I shared past experiences with Board decisions from my time as a BUSD 220 teacher. Both were present for the entirety of the meeting. Both also wanted to speak further about issues that were brought up regarding the board.

In direct response to Sandra's "I was a candidate" statement:

At no time was she asked any questions on that call; I was the only candidate introduced on that call and the only one asked to respond to questions. Both Sandra and Penny were introduced as board members.

Many people have asked me about any knowledge regarding other candidates.

After the call I received an email from this group with a long list of questions that I should be prepared to answer as a candidate. I was then on a short email chain with this group. Both Penny and Sandra were on all of these emails. The email chain followed the questions that were sent and was talking about Erin Chan Ding's 50k race, Erin hoping everyone had a great meeting, and asking if she could get the questions back to the group in line with the BEA deadline of 12/27 - she received a response that she would need it earlier. That's it.

I do not know nor do I have any information if she, or any other candidates, attended any meetings in the same fashion that I did. All I can attest to is that Erin also got the questions I received and was in contact with the group.

In addition to all of this, I spoke with Penny on 4/4 by phone. At the time she stressed that she was invited to that call the same as me, and that she would appreciate me adding that in as a follow up to the Barrington Hills Observer post. As I shared with her, the truth is I have no idea how she or Sandra were invited or came to be at the meeting. I can attest to the fact that they were both present, were introduced as school board members, were on all emails that followed the meeting with that group (none initiated by Penny or Sandra), that they did not recuse themselves at any point during the meeting, and that I had a follow up conversation with Penny. That's it.

Personal Notes Taken During Meeting

Notes about group:

- Never got the actual name of the group? They only said that they were a “steering committee” for the school board
- There were about 35+ people on the call. Many were from other organizations – BE the Change, Barrington Area Moms Demand Action?
- Mentioned that they were seeking “progressive” candidates
- Mentioned that they wanted to select “people of color” and were mostly interested in me because of my teaching background.
- Penny & Sandra mentioned that they would like to follow up with me about some of the issues I mentioned (e.g. how the 1to1 program was rolled out, why the district has mobile classrooms and rusty water and yet prioritized moving James Street offices, role of school board members (in relation to administration), not following survey results, etc.)
- People who stayed on the call with me until the end: (Zoom photo removed as this was not taken with permission and does not feel right)

Group mentioned these items to look into:

- Dear Barrington – Racial discrimination issues in the district (they are in touch with Nate to form a committee).
- Acknowledgement of need... Be the Change- is the organization that came to the board with all of the issues
- Board meeting from Oct 1st ?
- Also, you need to think through questions on gun safety within the home. Not sure why the school board “should” be involved in this (should the school board be making judgments about what people do in their homes – whether you believe in the topic or not) but it is a topic that they have addressed and one you will be asked.

Finance notes mentioned:

- Need to keep a ledger on purchase and expenses and donations that I get --- keep track of spending (\$5,000 – file D1 with Illinois state board of elections)
- 217-782-4141 #2 – Campaign finance disclosure
- (\$1,000 donation without filing can get a “you’re bad letter”)