

My name is Dave Trabert. I'm here in my professional capacity with Kansas Policy Institute. I am speaking on behalf of our supporters in Louisburg who do not want to appear in person for fear of retribution.

Honesty and integrity are listed among the district's Core Beliefs, but the district's handling of a parent's concern over contact tracing has been sorely lacking in honesty and integrity.

A news report in the Sentinel, which we own, outlines a long list of conflicting statements from Superintendent Biermann and principal Holloway.

I want it to be crystal clear...this was never about any district employee doing anything other than contact tracing. It was solely about district management's lack of honesty and integrity in responding to questions. That remains to be the case.

The community should know that Supt. Biermann had multiple opportunities to correct the district's contradictory responses. Several days before we published our story, I gave him an opportunity to explain each issue, but he wouldn't respond...even knowing that that would be reflected in the story.

But it doesn't end there.

Upon learning that district officials sent emails to staff and parents about our Sentinel article, we submitted an Open Records request on March 31 for electronic copies of each email and reply.

More than one response from Dr. Biermann indicated he had fulfilled the request, but that wasn't the case. We are still attempting to get the district to fulfill our request and we hope we don't have to file an Open Records complaint with the County Attorney to compel compliance with the law.

We also know that some board members made attempts to have this issue placed on tonight's agenda. But as of 6:00 tonight, the board president has declined to do so.

This entire issue could have been avoided if district officials had just given straight answers. We all make honest mistakes, and that may have been the case here. When we make mistakes, we should own up to them, apologize, and move on.

We encourage the board to identify ways to ensure that something like this doesn't happen again, and to hold district officials accountable for fully and promptly responding to Open Records requests.