

August 31, 2025

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Subject: Possible Misuse of Public Funds/Benefits

Dear Dr. Deidre Jenson and Members of the School Board,

I was the Business Manager for the School District from 2022– 2024. In my capacity as Business Manager of the District I was responsible for reviewing and documenting District expenses and the use of public funds and benefits. During the 2023 school year, the business office was assigned responsibility for centralizing all student accounting functions. As part of this transition, individual school-level bank accounts were systematically closed. In June 2023, oversight of the school-level Alaska Airlines mileage account was formally transferred to me.

On June 30, I identified concerns suggesting possible misuse of public funds or benefits. Specifically, Alaska Airlines account records show that, prior to my gaining access, two staff members had exclusive control of the account. The records indicate that mileage points or companion fares accrued through school activities were possibly used to book personal travel for these staff members, their spouses, and their children.

The documentation reflects trips to destinations such as Hawaii and Colorado. Additionally, one staff member appears to have repeatedly used the account over multiple years to fund travel to Fairbanks with their spouse and adult child. There is no known district-related purpose for staff to travel to Hawaii, Colorado, or to make repeated personal trips to Fairbanks, raising concerns about the use of these resources.

I am bringing this issue to your attention because I believe it is your duty to investigate and address this potential misuse of public funds/benefits.¹ If I am incorrect and it is not your duty to investigate and address this potential misuse of public funds/benefits, please let me know. Because I can and will attempt to bring this issue to the attention of the appropriate law enforcement authorities and the media, as well as funding sources who may want to know that funds/benefits are being misused.

I believe the District should do the following four things:

1. **A full, independent criminal investigation** by local or state law enforcement into the possible fraudulent mileage reimbursements and related potential financial misconduct. Internal handling of this matter is inadequate for safeguarding public trust.

¹ The District did some prior “investigation” but it was cursory in the extreme: the district investigator was a prior principal at the site where the possible fraud occurred. One of the two individuals involved remains in their same position of trust and responsibility

2. **Mandatory annual training** for all district staff, including coaches and volunteers, on professional ethics, internal controls, and financial accountability. This training must include proper money-handling procedures, correct use of district resources, and the legal and disciplinary consequences for mismanagement or misuse of public funds or assets.
3. **A formal district-wide policy** requiring that all suspected criminal activity—including financial misconduct—be immediately referred to law enforcement rather than addressed solely through internal investigations.
4. **Annual audits of mileage accounts**, including the stated purpose and user group for each reimbursement, along with written procedures for mileage allocation. These procedures must ensure that miles are used exclusively for district-supported activities and distributed equitably among user groups.

Please let me have your written response to this demand within 15 business days. If I do not hear from you, I can and will attempt to bring this issue to the attention of the appropriate law enforcement authorities and the media, as well as funding sources who may want to know that funds/benefits are being misused.

This is an opportunity to correct serious wrongs, restore integrity, and demonstrate institutional accountability. I urge the district to act accordingly.

Sincerely,



Leslie Young
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