

Jay Belcastro, Superintendent of Schools
Lake Superior School District #381
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Dear Superintendent Belcastro:

My name is Sean Kelly. I'm an investigative reporter and web publisher currently focused on the controversy (controversies) surrounding Two Harbors Mayor Chris Swanson. I am hoping that you will be forthcoming with the basic details of Mr. Swanson's past and present relationship with and role with the Lake Superior School District, including any potential periods of employment or volunteering, including any teaching or coaching positions held, his performance, reasons for separation, etc.

Chris Swanson's Role as Coach & Reason for Departure

If available online, I would appreciate links to any School Board meeting minutes that mention Mr. Swanson (or PDFs if they are not posted). I have communicated the following request to Secretary Debbie Peterson but have not heard back. Both you and Ms. Peterson were in attendance at these meetings:

I am specifically looking for the school board meeting minutes for July, 2014 and any special meetings around that time.

I am also looking specifically for meeting minutes and/or other documentation related to the employment of now-Mayor of Two Harbors Christopher Swanson by the school district, including those mentioning his hiring as well as his departure. Also, any mentioning Mr. Swanson's involvement in the extension program for both soccer and computer instruction (as Pure Driven).

Additionally, I am looking for minutes and documents related to issues related to the proposed suspension of Boys Soccer for the 2014/2015 school year mentioned in the attached minutes.

7.1 Boys Soccer:

Recommendation to support the Athletic Director's recommendation to suspend Boys Soccer for the 14/15 school year, with intent to re-instate for the following year. **(No Action Taken)**

5.0 DELEGATIONS/OPEN FORUM:

5.1 Perkins

5.2 Jerry Carlson

5.3 Chris Swanson – Boys Soccer

Chris Swanson Has Admitted to Sexually Assaulting a 5-Year Old Girl

Mr. Swanson has admitted that he was arrested and served a sentence for sexually assaulting a 5-year-old girl in Silver Bay when he was 15 years old. Was he a student under the supervision of the School District at that time? Would the school district have records of incidents such as this, even if he were homeschooled?

Has Lake Superior School District #381 ever performed a deep background check – the type that would access even sealed records - on Christopher Swanson? Was the School District aware of Chris Swanson’s history of sexual assault of a minor prior to giving him a role of authority over District students?

You Co-Founded the National Civility Association with Chris Swanson

Mr. Belcastro, the National Civility Association website states that it began when a group of DECA students brought the idea to you. You later brought in Chris Swanson

Were you aware of Mr. Swanson’s history of sexual assault of minors when you invited him to co-found the organization that has adult businessmen “working side by side” with high school students? You certainly have a long association with Chris Swanson. Did the “open secret” of his prior sex offenses not give you pause?

Finally, does the Lake Superior School District #381 have a policy regarding the participation of sex offenders as employees, faculty, coaches, volunteers or as part of partner organizations granted access to elementary and/or high school students.

Thank you very much for time and transparency on this important subject.

Sean Kelly

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PS can you help me identify where and when this picture was taken and where it was published? I believe it's from 2018.

