

October 23, 2009

**TO: SUPERINTENDENT DR. ROBIN BATTERSHELL, MR. JERRY PICKLE  
AND MR JOHN HANCOCK**

**From: Paula Flowe, Exec. Director of The Hitting Stops Here!**

**Re: Responsible caring school officials place a high priority on having safe  
nurturing schools.**

The Hitting Stops Here! (THSH!) contacted Temple Independent School District (TISD) officials regarding their decision to reinstate the use of corporal punishment, having one goal in mind: **Informing TISD of the harm caused by the use of corporal punishment as it applies in American schools to a developing human being.**

Responsible caring and professional school officials choose to prohibit enforcing any policy known by medical science to be harmful in any way to the children in their care. Science has proven that *even the threat of physical violence* is harmful to children.

THSH! anticipated being met with a level of professionalism that parents and communities at large expect from school officials who oversee the needs of the school children with whom they have been entrusted.

Our organization provided TISD school officials with three sound, compelling, and professional investigative reports on the issue of "American school corporal punishment." They are the recent GAO, ACLU, and UC Davis Law investigative reports.\* They are the most current and significant reports of this millennium on this topic, all of which were released within nine months of each other.

To our disappointment, we were met with a lack of concern and unprofessional attitudes with each encounter.

As a result, the children in care of TISD remain in a compromising and vulnerable state.

Mr. Pickle presented the following points and questions in a recent letter directed at me. I have commented on each as follows:

**Mr. Pickle:** As I have responded to some of your correspondence, I'm fairly certain that when we review our policies again, this will be considered.

**THSH!:** School children in the hands of adults who are sanctioned to use violence on them as a form of discipline, are in danger in our American schools. Verifiable reports giving credibility to this claim are contained in the three previously mentioned professional reports. Delaying safety for the children in your care is reckless, irresponsible, and cruel.

**Mr. Pickle:** They [the parents] don't want us to hurt their children, but they see corporal punishment, when administered properly, to be a viable conduct changer. We don't use corporal punishment UNLESS the parent approves.

**THSH:** Parents count on school officials for making the best “state of the art” decisions concerning the care of their children. School officials are voted-in and called to be experts to the best of their ability on the subject of the needs of school children. Society at large counts on these authority figures to be held accountable for being knowledgeable of current and widely available news and information that will support their making decisions that are in the best interest of the children they serve.

Progressive administrators and educators apply current scientific information to their decision-making. Failing to do so can jeopardize children physically, academically, emotionally and in every imaginative way

Would any responsible decision-maker cast a vote saying, “Well, it’s what the parents want,” regarding other child protective laws in place, such as car seat or tobacco and alcohol laws?

You expressed the term “administered properly” when referring to child-beating executed in your district.

**Do TISD officials check every teacher for having spanking fetishes?**

Do they check every principal to see if they order “kiddie-porn?” A teacher in “paddling” state Alabama was recently caught by internet FBI, trafficking videos of children being spanked by adults. Some were teachers. Being a man in his well-seasoned years, you are certainly aware of the kind of world we’re living in now.

Do you check every teacher to see if they are racist, sexist, or homophobic?

Do you check the power of the swing, the size of the board, the frustration level in the hearts and minds of the “authorized” child-beaters?

Do you check to see if the child is corporally punished at home; how often, in what manner, how frequently, by whom, where, and why?

Do you check to see if the children subjected to paddlings are developing spanking fetishes, sexual confusion, or a level of anger, enough to want to kill?

How do you get around the question, “Are you menstruating at this time?” since it is illegal to ask a developing young lady in your care this question under any circumstances?

How do you get around the question, “Are you having an erection at this time?” prior to beating a developing young man? Science has proven that when boys are spanked while having an erection, it can cause sterility—no “Happy Father’s Day!” for them.

I have received emails from young developing male students telling me that they don't mind being paddled as long as its done by a certain female teacher. Our schools develop porn stars, prostitutes, and "spanking fetish" and mentally unstable teachers.

Conduct changer? Might someone "change your conduct," Mr. Pickle, if they threatened to beat the lights out of you? Is your best solution to use a "no-brainer" Willie Lynch slave tactic, ignoring a mountain of scientific evidence, all of which that points to the fact that what you are doing is considered "gross negligence of imminently harmful conditions."

**Mr. Pickle:** If we don't work to refine the difference between what is physically dangerous to the child and appropriate methods of physical intervention with a child to address the safety of the other children in a class, then I don't think we are doing our jobs as Board members.

**THSH:** My point, exactly, Mr. Pickle! That is why your reading the three documents mentioned previously are a "must read" for you and the entire TISD school officials and faculty body, if "safe nurturing schools" is the goal.

**Mr. Pickle:** Is it appropriate to use physical action to separate fighting children, or should we just let them continue until one of the children gives up or is hurt seriously?

**THSH:** Mr. Pickle, please!

**Mr. Pickle:** There, admittedly no doubt, have been cases of the use of corporal punishment where it has been inappropriately used and abused. Those are rare, in my experience.

**THSH!** For that reason alone, Mr. Pickle, your children are presently in a dangerous position. Would you eat a deliciously served meal having nutritious comestibles, all except for one having an unknown poisonous ingredient?

**Mr. Pickle:** Sometimes telling the child is not enough.

**THSH!:** Please view the YouTube: *Positive Discipline*:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/paulaflowe#p/a/f/0/Ajcb4bwZQnE>

**Mr. Pickle:** Come with something better than no corporal punishment sent on a prefabricated e-mail.

**THSH:** Mr. Pickle, I have no idea what "prefabricated e-mail" means, but what I do know is that no "better" issue exists more worthy of the attention of a body of school officials than that of the safety needs of the children in their care.

**Mr. Pickle:** Thank you, and may God give you the wisdom! to help all of us solve these problems.

**THSH:** Mr. Pickle, He has. For starters, God says, in Psalm 82: 3-4: "Protect the children from the hands of the wicked." I think He meant that through all generations of life on this planet. The GAO, ACLU, and UC Davis Law reports will give you more insight than you can handle without wearing a seatbelt; and I suggest you "snap-it" before you begin to read.

For self-assurance in knowing that we are doing EVERYTHING we can to support TISD school officials in making the best decisions for the safety and well-being of its children, we have included a few excerpts from each of the previously mentioned professionally prepared reports:

**UC Davis Law Review: STATE ACTORS BEATING CHILDREN: A CALL FOR JUDICIAL RELIEF, April 2009, by Professor of Law, Deana Pollard**

**p.1** *“...The United States stands in stark contrast to the industrialized world relative to children’s human rights generally, and particularly in relation to public school corporal punishment. Despite an enormous body of social science research establishing both the inefficacy of corporal punishment and the very serious social harms that can result from it, twenty states have failed to respond appropriately...Currently, most scientists believe that many of the social ills that plague the United States, including violence, drug abuse, and failed interpersonal relationships, result from or are exacerbated by violence directed at children, including corporal punishment....Contemporary scientific data reveal the very serious liberty infringement inherent in public school corporal punishment...”*

**p.5** *This Article focuses exclusively on corporal punishment as defined herein. Paddling a student for a prior fight with another student and for making rude comments to a principal, for using “abusive language” toward a school bus driver, for continuing to play dodge ball after being instructed to stop, for disrupting class, for failing to turn in a homework assignment, or for humming in the boys’ bathroom typify school corporal punishment. Similarly, slapping a student for breaking an egg while attempting a technology class experiment; striking boys in the testicles for disciplinary reasons; piercing a student’s arm with a straight pin as punishment, “kicking the shit” out of a student for throwing a dodge ball towards the coach in response to the coach’s request to hand over the ball; knocking a student’s eye out of its socket during a student’s fight with another student; placing a student in a choke hold, resulting in loss consciousness and broken nose and teeth; slamming a student to the floor and dragging the student to the principal’s office for being disruptive in class; and forcing painful, excessive exercise, resulting in death for talking to another student during roll call, may constitute corporal punishment, but a factual determination regarding the need for force and the intent of the school official is necessary before constitutional analysis is possible.*

**ACLU report: A Violent Education, August 2008, by Alice Farmer**

**p.2** *“...The United States is out of step with international practice and jurisprudence on the use of corporal punishment in schools. Today 106 countries outlaw the practice, including the United Kingdom and other European countries, following rulings on corporal punishment by the European Court of Human Rights....Experts...have concluded that corporal punishment by school officials and teachers violates governmental obligations to protect children from physical violence and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. The disproportionate use of corporal punishment against African-American students in particular violates the right to non-discrimination in accessing education.”*

**p.4** *“As a consequence of the helplessness and humiliation felt by students who experience corporal punishment, some students become angry: students told Human Rights Watch that it only makes them want to lash out against teachers or other students. Others become depressed or withdrawn; still others become immune to the constant violence, accepting it as a part of their daily lives.”*

**Government Accountability Office (GAO) report: Seclusions and Restraints:  
Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment  
Centers**

**p. 2** *“...students with disabilities were abusively pinned to the floor for hours at a time, handcuffed, locked in closets, and subjected to other traumatizing acts of violence.”*

**p. 6** *“A 9-year-old boy in foster care died at a [Texas] public charter school after his teacher took him to a “time out” room and restrained him using a “basket hold,” which in this case was described as an adult standing behind a child, holding the child’s crossed arms and taking him to the floor. Purportedly, the boy began to make noise like he was vomiting, then slumped over after being released. The teacher testified that she initially thought he was playing dead and joked with other staffers about planning his funeral.”*

[On September 14, 2009, a Temple Independent School District parent accompanied me into the office of Supt. Robin Battershell to disclose how her child, having special needs including a lack of verbal language, was being restrained to a seat resembling an electric chair by the use of leather straps applied to his legs and arms, and having his mouth taped closed. The grade school boy is now suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.]

**The following are excerpts from the correspondences that we have had with School Board Members, Mr. David Pennington, Mr. Jerry Pickle, and TISD School Transportation Supervisor, Mr. Walter Prothos.**

**Correspondence between Mr. Pennington (Trumpking) and THSH!**

Subject: Re: Reject corporal punishment!  
Saturday, October 10, 2009 1:17 PM  
From: "TRUMP KING5952" [trumpking5952@aol.com](mailto:trumpking5952@aol.com)  
To: "PAULA FLOWE" [paunia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paunia@sbcglobal.net)

“I cannot imagine how it is to have a view and opinion or something that no one else gives a flip about your campaign!”

**Correspondence between Mr. Pennington and THSH!**

Subject: Re: Reject corporal punishment!  
From: [tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com](mailto:tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com)  
To: Jerry Pickle <[JPICKLE@swmail.sw.org](mailto:JPICKLE@swmail.sw.org)>  
Cc: “TRUMP KING5952” <[trumpking5952@aol.com](mailto:trumpking5952@aol.com)>  
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 11:45am

“The Hitting Stops Here! presented statically proven, modern science based information to you and your fellow board members regarding corporal punishment and the imminent harm it causes children. We presented you with a video of an actual classroom where *Positive Discipline* models are employed. And, we have presented you with three of the most prominent and statistically sound documents released within eight months of each other on the subject of American school abuse. All cite widespread and numerous cases of school abuse and fatalities occurring in American schools with Texas schools leading the way...”

Subject: Re: Reject corporal punishment!  
From: "trumpking5952" <[trumpking5952@aol.com](mailto:trumpking5952@aol.com)>  
Date: Sun, October 18, 2009 4:14 pm  
To: [tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com](mailto:tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com)

“It must be interesting to have a useless opinion on something!”

### **Correspondence between Mr. Pickle and THSH!**

From: Jerry Pickle <[JPICKLE@swmail.sw.org](mailto:JPICKLE@swmail.sw.org)>  
Subject Fwd: Re: Reject corporal punishment!  
To: [paunia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paunia@sbcglobal.net)  
Date: Friday, October 9, 2009, 8:52 AM Ms. Flowe

“I think that I have made all the points that I wish to make at this time. Last week, I forwarded to you an e-mail which I sent to your colleagues. I do not wish to address these issues again, unless you have something new to add to the discussion.”

Mr. Pickle began his first letter to me with this question: “How many of these campaigns do you have going on? If you have many, it might be interesting to see how they view the same subject.”

Here is *something new*, Mr. Pickle. It also sheds some light on your inquiry:

#### *Bristol Board of Education Takes Swat at Corporal Punishment*

*By Roger Brown*

*Published: **October 20, 2009***

*BRISTOL, Tenn. – A longtime policy that allows Bristol students to be spanked came closer to being swatted into history Monday night, when Board of Education members gave initial approval to a proposal banning corporal punishment in city schools.*

*By a 4-1 vote, board members approved a recommendation by Director of Schools Gary Lilly that the district drop corporal punishment as a discipline option at its seven schools.*

*The school board now must hold a second vote, scheduled for Dec. 14, to officially approve the ban. It would take effect immediately. "It's inappropriate in this era," said board member Nelson Pyle, explaining his vote to eliminate spanking."*

### **Correspondence between Mr. Walter Prothos and THSH!**

From: [tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com](mailto:tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com)

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 9:03 PM

To: Prothro, Walter

Cc: Battershell, Robin; Hancock, John; Villarreal, JJ; Bullock, Jason;

"Dear Mr. Prothros,

This morning between 8:20am and 8:40am, the first day back to school, Paula observed one of your bus drivers looking directly at her while brandishing a paddle used for corporally punishing students. This occurred while he waited in the driveway for traffic to clear, before making a right turn out of the Temple High School parking lot, having just dropped off students.

We understand that oftentimes children with special needs take school buses as well as regular education students who qualify for this option. According to the Temple IS District, the only people authorized to beat your students with a paddle are school administrators...."

From: "Prothro, Walter" <[walter.prothro@tisd.org](mailto:walter.prothro@tisd.org)>

Date: Tue, August 25, 2009 4:19 am

To: [tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com](mailto:tonybrian@thehittingstopshere.com)

"Give me a bus number or show me a picture or shut up. We have work to do in helping to educate the wonderful children of Temple Texas. Get a real job and help the economy."

Dr. Battershell, when I met with you in your office on Sept. 14, 2009 to discuss the poor decision of reinstating the use of corporal punishment made by TISD officials, your response was, **"I'm a stickler about our children's safety. No teacher will abuse any children under me."** You said this to me even after, together, you and I listened to a TISD parent disclose the abuse that her child had suffered mentally, emotionally and physically while being placed in a harmful and humiliating restraint, as described above, numerous times within the start of the "still new" school year.

You refer to yourself as a "stickler" in spite of the abuse that a third grade TISD student recently suffered when forced to do more than 100 push-ups for the entire duration of her P.E. class as a form of punishment, resulting in "wobbly and sore fingers and toes," as described by the little girl under "the big man" educator who had authority over her at the time.

While campaigning in Temple, THSH! I spoke with a parent of an elementary school student who informed me that her child's school bus driver keeps a paddle on the floor of the bus by his seat. When she saw it, she told the bus driver, "You better not hit my child with that." That's two bus drivers for sure, Dr. Battershell, that we know of already.

**You refer to yourself as a "stickler," Dr. Battershell, in spite of the "flippant" attitudes, and the poor responses to the imminent danger that your students remain in, right under the noses of all who are in "control."**

Although Mr. Pennington has expressed that he could a "give a flip" about the message of our campaign, we appeal to you once again, Dr. Robin Battershell, to review the most updated reports that we have delivered to you regarding the imminent danger in which you have placed the children in your care, by leaving this harmful practice on your books.

The cited abuse and fatalities documented in the GAO, ACLU, and UC Davis reports are real and far too important to ignore and disregard, even for the best of "sticklers."

We look forward to hearing of the good decision made by TISD. We know that responsible caring adults in your position place a high priority on safe nurturing schools for the children in their care.

**Please view YouTube: Temple, Texas School Abuse Legacy:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isWoSYTa2N8>**

Thank you,

Paula Flowe, Exec. Director  
Tony Brian, Asst. Exec. Director  
The Hitting Stops Here!  
A campaign for teaching kindness and respect in schools everywhere.  
[www.TheHittingStopsHere.com](http://www.TheHittingStopsHere.com)  
[info@thehittingstopshere.com](mailto:info@thehittingstopshere.com)  
Board members of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education  
408.223.7797

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UC Davis Law Review: STATE ACTORS BEATING CHILDREN: A CALL FOR JUDIAL RELIEF, April 2009, by Professor of Law, Deana Pollard  
<http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/State%20Actors%20UC%20Dav.pdf>

ACLU report: A Violent Education, August 2008, by Alice Farmer  
[http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/ACLU\\_2009.pdf](http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/ACLU_2009.pdf)

Government Accountability Office (GAO) report: Seclusions and Restraints: Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment Centers  
[http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/GOA\\_2009.pdf](http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/GOA_2009.pdf)