

District confirms intimidation probe

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Neshaminy

Neshaminy School District administrators confirmed Monday that they are investigating a Middletown resident's claim that a support union member tried to intimidate him about speaking at a school board meeting.

Superintendent Lou Muenker confirmed that Larry Pastor submitted what Muenker called a "letter of concern" that the district is looking into, but said no other information could be released.

The newspaper was unsuccessful in reaching union President Mindy Anderson for comment Monday.

Pastor, a frequent speaker at school board meetings and chairman of Taxpayers for a Fair Neshaminy School District Budget, alleges that a man followed him into the men's bathroom during the April 20 meeting. While in the facility, Pastor said the man told him he was a district custodian and a member of the Neshaminy Educational Support Professional Association. The man asked Pastor if he was going to say something nice about the union at the meeting.

When Pastor said he might speak during public comment later that evening, he said the man got in his face and began screaming at him. Pastor alleges the man followed him out of the bathroom into the hallway, where he continued to confront him, called him an advocate for outsourcing, yelled that the support staff would lose their jobs, and cursed at him.

Board members are considering outsourcing custodial, food, grounds keeping and transportation services because they say it will save the district more than \$30 million over five years.

"It was really intimidating and I think a planned effort to silence me," said Pastor. "He was very confrontational. It would have escalated. He was looking for a fight. I felt it had to be reported for the sake of the community. Are people's voices going to be silenced just because they disagree with union membership?"

Pastor said he has not filed a police report. While he doesn't plan to, Pastor added that he's still considering his options.

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