

How low will you go Tom Long?

As some of you may know, I have written several independent editorials for the Osceola Gazette over the years. In the past I have written about the shortcomings of Jay Wheeler and Michael Grego. More recently I have exposed the wrongdoings of Cindy Hartig and Tom Long.

Some of you may also know that, unlike Tom Long, I have a major stake in the success of the Osceola County School District. My sons take their education very seriously as do I. For us it's not about feeding off the public dole.

Mediocrity matters and it starts in our public schools with people like Tom Long. This is the same Tom Long who suggested that "pink slime" is good enough for the USDA so it must be good enough in children's lunches.

In my experience, people in a position of power (even meager school board power) often resort to lying whenever the truth is not on their side. And they will make up lies about anyone who dares expose the truth about them.

At the December 4th school board meeting you lied about me Tom Long. Why? The most insidious of your lies suggested that I wanted to engage in a physical altercation with someone at a public meeting. I have never had a physical altercation with anyone since elementary school and I have never wanted to. I have never even raised my voice in public.

I know why Tom Long lied about me.

I exposed Long's and Hartig's corruption, corruption that surfaced during the superintendent selection process last year. At that time Cindy Hartig was the predominant fabricator. But Tom Long played a key role in covering-up Hartig's lies by refusing to bear witness to the evidence proving the lies, evidence that was ultimately verified by a reporter for the Orlando Sentinel.

As Cindy Hartig's most ardent supporter, you helped cover up her lies Tom Long.

Like Tom Long did last week, Hartig also lied into the public record last year. You knew what Hartig did back then Tom Long, yet you did nothing. That way your good friend Terry Andrews would be appointed above 5 other candidates who were far more qualified to be superintendent. We all saw that train wreck. I was feverishly trying to stop the train wreck when I called Tom Long after 10pm last year and the following morning. If Hartig - Andrews was the train, Tom Long was its conductor.

When I tried to expose Hartig's lies you responded by blocking my emails Tom Long. When I exposed your email blocking last week you made up lies about me. You knew that I couldn't respond to your lies then and I was therefore defenseless at that meeting. So you attacked me like the coward that you are.

You are a deceiver Tom Long. And you are a coward. You not only lied ABOUT me, but you also lied TO me.

Yet you didn't just lie to me. You also lied to the Osceola School District Director of Community Relations. That lie is part of the public record as well.

It is a documented fact that you lied to Dana Schafer by intentionally withholding a document from a public records request, a document that you printed on paper and secretly handed to the anonymous blogger "Carl Cricket". You violated the Florida Sunshine Law Tom Long. Only after you were exposed did you acknowledge the deception.

I exposed all of that and your email blocking too. So you lied about me in this public forum. You did so because you had no other recourse and Florida law gives leeway to public officials like you to say anything on the dais without legal consequences. If I am lying, you can sue me. If you are lying, I cannot sue you. Thus you hold the coward's shield of "absolute privilege" against me and anyone else who speaks the truth about you in public.

At the last meeting, Tom Long said verbatim:

"He wanted to get into a physical fight with that individual because after everything was done he wanted to rule that particular committee."

Here are written statements from 6 eyewitnesses other than myself who were in attendance at the committee meeting in question. Each and every witness contradicts Tom Long's public statement. 3 statements are from fellow committee members and 3 are from Osceola School District employees, including Assistant Superintendent Lissette Brizendine, who chaired the committee.

You are a deceiver Tom Long and you are not fit to be on the Osceola County School Board. You are not fit to be in any public office or in any position of trust.

You have violated the public trust Tom Long and I am so sorry that I ever voted for you.