

July 31, 2014

Michael A. Grego, Ed.D.
Pinellas County Schools
301 Fourth St. SW
Largo, FL 33770

Superintendent Grego:

As you are aware, St. Petersburg High School is improperly featured as the filming location for a Crist for Governor campaign television advertisement currently airing across Florida. The continued airing of this advertisement without the objection of the Pinellas County School System suggests that the School Board in fact endorses Mr. Crist's campaign. This violation of Pinellas County School System rules has been described by the school district in the press as an "error in judgment."¹ I write to respectfully request that you take immediate action to prevent the appearance of the School Board's endorsement of a political candidate by demanding that all stations currently airing this ad cease doing so.

While mistakes are certainly understandable, it is incumbent upon you as the leader of the Pinellas County School System, to ensure that the integrity of the School System is maintained. The School Board Bylaws and Policies posted on your website make clear that such an endorsement is prohibited.² In addition to the rules violation described in the press ("The Pinellas County school system prohibits the use of school property for 'advertising or otherwise promoting the interests of any commercial, political or other non-school agency or individual organization.')

we note that the School Board's Bylaws and Policies, Chapter 1231, Section 5, expressly prohibit administrators from authorizing "the expenditure of public funds for a political advertisement . . ."

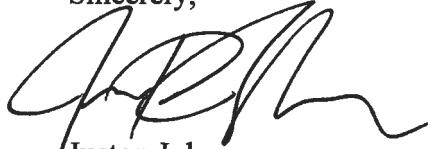
This advertisement continues to air on television stations and appear on Mr. Crist's campaign website. We therefore request that you publicly declare that the School Board does not endorse Mr. Crist's candidacy by demanding that all stations currently airing this ad cease doing so immediately and demanding that Mr. Crist remove this ad from his website.

¹ Cara Fitzpatrick, *Crist Political Ad Shot at St. Petersburg High Violated School District Rules*, Tampa Bay Times, <http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/crist-political-ad-shot-at-st-petersburg-high-violated-school-district/2190733>

² https://www.pcsb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=272&Itemid=29

To assist you in this effort, we have enclosed Mr. Crist's campaign contact information, as well as the names and contact information for the each of the televisions stations currently airing the advertisement improperly filmed in your school district's facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Juston Johnson