

From: [Julie Losh](#)
To: ccboardengagement@gmail.com
Cc: [Carol DeSoto](#); [Christina Elkins](#); [Commissioner with Assistants](#)
Subject: CRO 8053 - Patterson Outside Employment
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 4:03:51 PM
Attachments: [8053 initial.pdf](#)
[Outlook-xxq14w14.png](#)

Good afternoon, Dr. Paul,

This email confirms that the BoCC has received your email below and attached. Further, I'll forward them to the Clerk for record ahead of the next public comment session.

Thank you,



Julie A. Losh, MPH, CAP

Assisting the Office of Citizen Response

Charles County Government
200 Baltimore Street | La Plata, MD 20646

E: LoshJ@CharlesCountyMD.gov

O: (240) 776-6682 | M: (443) 532-7689

www.CharlesCountyMD.gov

From: Douglas Paul <ccboardengagement@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 8:30 AM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@charlescountymd.gov>
Subject: Happy Monday!

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

Charles County Commissioners,

I hope each of you enjoyed your weekend!

I was perusing the Prince George's County School System employee listing, and the name Ralph Patterson is no longer listed. Ahead of the next public comment section, I have some questions for you:

-- Did Ralph Patterson II steal from the PGCPS by misrepresenting his paid presence?

- Was Ralph Patterson II fired from PGCPS or was he allowed to resign?
- What impacts do the special needs students at PGCPS suffer because of his actions?
- Did Ralph Patterson II purposely ignore his special needs students to advance his political career and push the Charter?
- Do his primary supporters support this activity? Ralph Patterson II insists he listens to the people, so which people told him to take this course?
- Did any deal Ralph Patterson II strike with the PGCPS vary from the punishment several Prince George's County police officers received when they double dipped and got caught? If Ralph Patterson II didn't suffer any consequences as a result of his appearing to defraud PGCPS, why not? Who helped broker that deal?
- Did Delegate Edith Patterson and/or Angela Alsobrooks influence PGCPS' investigation into this potentially fraudulent activity in any way?
- Why, from a human and not political perspective, wouldn't each of you soundly and publically reject Ralph Patterson II's actions?

I look forward to what I'm sure will be a robust, detail-filled response from each of you...either now, or when I pose these same questions to the local media and at the next public comment session and town hall.

Douglas Paul

Ralph Patterson II

Douglas Paul <ccboardengagement@gmail.com>

Mon 5/13/2024 12:51 PM

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

Greetings,

I'm sending this email to a broad swath of Prince George's County School System (PGCPS) affiliates and eventually the broader news media because I have concerns that touch most of your offices. It is my sincere hope that you don't take the lack of a personalized email in any other way other than an attempt at efficiency on my end.

Ralph Patterson II is a teacher in the PGCPS system. Recently, he was the subject of a [Newsbreak news article](#) that highlighted:

"...he [Ralph Patterson II] has been publicly documented attending events in Charles County [in his role as County Commissioner] while on the clock and being compensated by the Prince George's County School System. It has been confirmed that Patterson was not on regular leave, sick leave, or on his regularly scheduled days off when attending Charles County events but was putting himself down as in attendance and working for the school system instead".

When I looked at Ralph on the PGCPS employee list, as best I can tell, his record is one of the only ones that doesn't list contact information for a supervisor. Why? Who does he work for directly in his capacity as a teacher?

I didn't write or contribute to the Newsbreak article, nor am I reinforcing some of the binary statements made within. Until the findings of what I'm hoping of a thorough investigation are made clear, I'm qualifying my language. That being said when I spoke directly to a representative of PGCPS, they confirmed portions of the Newsbreak article that talk about Ralph's being placed on administrative leave.

While this is not a political issue, Ralph does occupy a political office in Charles County. With all of the political churn and controversies down here, his clear political connections to Angela Alsobrooks and Delegate Patterson, and Ralph's support of a fellow Charles County Commissioner who, according to an independent investigator, engaged in bullying, harassment, racial discrimination, and retaliation against county employees, I'm concerned that consequences around his alleged conduct in PGCPS will be minimized, delayed, and/or overlooked. I'm asking for your assurance that you are dedicated to ensuring that this isn't the case. The people of Charles County have already been impacted by Ralph Patterson's actions, and now it appears some of the most vulnerable students in PGCPS have been as well. We all deserve and should get complete transparency when it comes to the investigation into his alleged misconduct. This hope is the heart of why I'm emailing you today.

While the broader Prince George's County has a mixed track record on how each agency handles employee discipline, it wasn't too long ago that several PG County police officers were charged with theft and misconduct in office for working at another job when they were supposed to be on duty

working for the police department. As is appropriate in that case, a thorough investigation resulted in public and regular statements by the state's attorney. I'm sure you can begin to appreciate the parallels here, but I wanted to draw this part of my email out to make my thoughts crystal clear. The public would greatly benefit from the same approach to public statements by PGCPs, the Inspector General, and/or the state's attorney even while an investigation is underway into Ralph's alleged actions.

The political climate in Charles County is indeed a complete mess, but I'd posit that it is a microcosm of what we see nationally. Given Ralph's political connections, I suppose that some folk could use them as an attempt to besmirch any effort to defend the special needs students of PGCPs and hold Ralph accountable. I feel like that's an ugly part of our current political climate, so anticipating such tactics is a sad but true aspect of what we all deal with. This is NOT why I wanted to begin a dialogue with each of you. I don't know how else to say it; this is a human, ethical, and potentially criminal issue...NOT a principally political concern. Ralph should be afforded due process, BUT he should be held to the same standard the State's Attorney's Office relied upon when they evaluated the case of those 13 police officers in 2022 and 2023.

The state's attorney said in part, "...we continuously evaluate the evidence to ensure that our office is operating with the highest integrity. When new evidence comes to our attention, we have a duty to unflinchingly investigate and reevaluate". I'm asking each of you to work with the same office to apply the same rigor. While those officers were initially charged, those charges were dismissed. When you dig into why that is, the state's attorney commented on how they approach investigations. The charges against the officers were dismissed because "new witness statements, and witness impeachment materials led the state's attorney's office to drop the charges". If your investigation reveals similarly exculpatory evidence in Ralph's case, then he should be similarly exonerated.

I simply feel that such exculpatory evidence will likely not be present in Ralph's case. Why? Because the public has professional videos Ralph and/or his campaign staff posted to his re-election Facebook page showing dates and times when he was attending political events in person in his capacity as a Charles County Commissioner. Many of those were during the school day. When a colleague of mine reached out to the Inspector General at the Maryland Department of Education, they wouldn't confirm the status of any investigation (this was good to see...everyone deserves this protection), but they did say "...an employee is only prohibited from campaigning during work hours".

That last part hits. Even with my support of due process and a willingness to cage my language, I don't think there is any question that Ralph did what we are talking about here. There are, however, several open questions related to this matter that I'm hoping your investigation uncovers and addresses that might change my impression:

- Did Ralph defraud and/or steal from the PGCPs by misrepresenting his paid presence on his time card and/or any other system of record that PGCPs uses to track and pay teachers?
- Who in PGCPs knew about this and did they facilitate it and/or cover it up? For how long and when? Will there be/are there related investigations underway?
- Was Ralph fired from PGCPs or was he allowed to resign? If he hasn't been or hasn't done so yet, how will this be handled?
- What precise impacts do the special needs students at PGCPs suffer because of his apparent actions?
- Is there any deal being discussed in any way by anyone associated with any of your offices related to Ralph's alleged conduct? Will any administrative and/or criminal outcomes Ralph faces vary from

those proposed and/or suffered by the aforementioned police officers when they double-dipped and got caught? Who exactly is helping broker any deal?

-- Did Delegate Edith Patterson and/or Angela Alsobrooks influence PGCPs' investigation into this potentially fraudulent activity in any way?

-- Will all of you, from a human and not political perspective, soundly and publically reject Ralph's actions if/when these allegations are proven?

-- Is Ralph being paid while he is on administrative leave?

-- Will PGCPs publically release the results of the apparent investigation into Ralph Patterson II and will those public statements cover these and any other community concerns?

Again, I apologize for the mass email and even the length of this. As you can tell, this is an intricate issue that deserves disinfecting sunlight for the sake of all of the precious children in PGCPs and the population that Ralph serves in Charles County. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to a robust, detail-filled response from each of you.

Best regards,

Dr. Douglas Paul