



QUICK OVERVIEW ON THE SPECIAL GRAND JURY REPORT

We encourage everyone to read the full report for themselves at <https://www.loudoun.gov/specialgrandjury>
Below is an overview of the results. LCPS=Loudoun County Public Schools. LCSO=Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

The report highlighted an initial reluctance by both LCPS Admin and LCSO to believe the accusation of rape because the survivor had an ongoing sexual relationship with the assailant. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP STATING THAT RAPE IS RAPE, EVEN WHEN THOSE INVOLVED ARE IN A RELATIONSHIP. This failure to believe the accusation seems to be the root of many of the initial mistakes by both LCPS Admin and LCSO in handling the situation. ALL SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS NEED TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED WITHOUT PRE-JUDGEMENT.

*At *NO* point is the assailant identified as anything other than male. The persistent claims that the assailant was transgender and was allowed to use the girls' restroom are simply false. The assailant did not have permission to use the girls' restroom.*

The Report Highlighted Major Communication and Coordination Issues among LCSO, the Courts, the CA's office and LCPS Admin

- The failure of these organizations to work together and share information was extremely detrimental to the case.

It cleared the School Board of any serious wrongdoing

- It confirmed that the school board received only a basic notice of an alleged assault. By policy, the School Board is kept out of all discipline related issues because in the case of an appeal, the School Board must remain neutral.
- It confirmed that the School Board repeatedly asked for more information from LCPS admin.
- It explained that the School Board was allowed only ½ hour in a closed room to view the internal LCPS investigation results.
- It says the school board was resistant to the Grand Jury Investigation.

Chaos and confusion in how LCPS Admin handled the assault investigation

- It showed that LCPS failed to understand their role in opening a Title IX investigation (a Title IX investigation is a school's obligation to examine an allegation of gender-based harm and determine what steps need to be taken to correct and address any violations, including assessing discipline. A Title IX investigation is an administrative proceeding and is separate from the criminal investigation.) LCPS believed they needed to wait on criminal charges, which was not true.
- It showed that Superintendent Ziegler was not truthful in stating that he was not aware of any assaults in bathrooms.
- It showed a reluctance of LCPS Admin to provide information to the public as well as major failures of communication within LCPS.
- It showed LCPS needs alternate placement options for students who may pose a risk to others.

Failures of LCSO Based on Politicization

- It says that LCSO did "not see fit" to charge or arrest the assailant until the news broke the story. It states that LCSO collected "very little evidence." The assault occurred on May 28th, but the arrest did not happen until July 2nd.
- It states the LCSO refused to provide the actual charges to LCPS Admin and that the relationship between LCSO/LCPS was toxic

Failures of Other Parties

- DNA evidence was critical to successful prosecution, but the DNA results were delayed. As a juvenile, the assailant could not be held indefinitely without prosecution, but the CA felt the DNA results were critical to successful prosecution so the assailant had to be released temporarily while awaiting those results
- Juvenile Intake failed to provide proper notification to LCPS Admin regarding the charges. Notification was sent via interoffice memo to the attention of someone no longer in the position and no follow up or confirmation of receipt was done.