

WILLIAM "BILL" EDDINS
STATE ATTORNEY



1-B 9th Avenue
Shalimar, FL 32579
Telephone: (850) 651-7260
Website: <http://sa01.co.escambia.fl.us>

OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

June 29, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

William "Bill" Eddins, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, announced the release of the Okaloosa Grand Jury Report issued on June 13, 2018, which has been ordered released by the Court. The Report is the result of the Grand Jury's review of the operations, policies and procedures regarding the Okaloosa County School District. Attached to this press release is a copy of the report.

For more information regarding this matter, please contact Assistant State Attorney William Bishop at (850) 651-7260.

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
AT THE FIRST TERM HEREOF,
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD,
TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN

REPORT

WE THE GRAND JURORS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, LAWFULLY SELECTED, IMPANELED AND SWORN, INQUIRING IN AND FOR THE BODY OF THE COUNTY OF OKALOOSA UPON THEIR OATHS AS GRAND JURORS, DO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING REPORT.

At the request of the Office of the State Attorney, we have again met to review matters concerning the Okaloosa County School District. In our previous report, we asked the State Attorney's Office to continue its investigation to determine if evidence existed to support more arrests. Of particular concern to us was the knowledge and behavior of Superintendent of Schools, Mary Beth Jackson. This additional investigation has now been completed and presented to us for our review. This new evidence concerns Mary Beth Jackson as well as allegations of possible child abuse by a former school district teacher. Based upon our review, we find that there is insufficient evidence to support any additional criminal charges and therefore, return a NO TRUE BILL.

While we have found that the evidence presented to us is insufficient to allow us to indict Mary Beth Jackson on any criminal charges, we continue to lack confidence in her abilities to serve as Superintendent of Schools for Okaloosa County. As stated in our previous report, we are most concerned about her behavior, lack of leadership, and failure to fulfill her obligations as Superintendent. For these reasons, we, the members of this Grand Jury, recommend that the Department of Education review this matter and take appropriate action against Ms. Jackson. To assist in this review, we ask that the State Attorney's Office forward copies of our reports to the Department of Education. We further recommend that both the School District and School Board move forward to fully implement the recommendations made in our previous report.

As voters and taxpayers of Okaloosa County, we encourage all citizens to be both informed and educated when it comes time to place their ballot.

DONE THIS 7³ day of June 2018.

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2018
PEACOCK II
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

AND CORRECT COPY
PEACOCK II
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

W. Chiles
DEPUTY CLERK

DATE 6 13 18



Foreperson