

Good morning, Lynda. Thank you for your email.

The Central Regional School District learned yesterday afternoon that Mr. Williams was arrested yesterday and charged with official misconduct, sexual assault, and child endangerment, as has been reported. However, at no time was there any indication from the Hamilton School District that Mr. Williams' employment was terminated, and in fact, it was not until after Mr. Williams' arrest was made public that the Hamilton School District disclosed anything about this matter to the Central Regional School District.

By way of further explanation, as part of the District's screening and interview process, District staff spoke with references about Mr. Williams and his potential candidacy. In each conversation, no hint or indication was given that there was anything of concern that would cause us to question Mr. Williams' character and ability to work in our District. Further, if Mr. Williams had been terminated, as you indicated in your email, that termination would have been reported to the Department of Education's Board of Examiners. As part of our process, we checked with the Department of Education regarding Mr. Williams' prior employment history, and there was no indication or report of any termination by the Hamilton School District.

Since there was no indication that there was anything in Mr. Williams' past employment that would call into question his candidacy, he was on the agenda at the Central Regional School District's Board of Education meeting on August 13, 2025. However, before any recommended hiring can be finalized, every applicant must successfully pass a criminal history background check, successfully submit and receive clearances under the New Jersey Pass The Trash Law, among other requirements.

When we received the portion of the Pass The Trash Forms completed by Mr. Williams, the District learned, for the first time, that Mr. Williams had been the subject of an investigation during his employment with the Hamilton School District; however, we were informed only that the allegation had been fully reviewed and no charges were filed.

A copy of the Pass The Trash Forms for Mr. Williams were initially inadvertently sent to the Hamilton School District located in Mercer County. Once we were informed of this, the forms were sent to the correct Hamilton School District in Atlantic County; however, completed copies were not received until after Mr. Williams' arrest had been publicly reported. Again, it was not until after the news of Mr. Williams' arrest was made public that Central Regional learned that Mr. Williams was the subject of a child abuse or sexual misconduct investigation, and that he had been non-renewed, not terminated, as a result by the Hamilton School District.

When Central Regional became aware of all of this information, the offer of employment to Mr. Williams was immediately rescinded and withdrawn. At no time was Mr. Williams in contact with any of our students, nor officially employed by the District.

Be Well,



Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Central Regional School District

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