

Margaret Maynor
NC Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
West Hoke Elementary

February 16, 2012

Purpose of Meeting: To find out why a student with a lunch box was sent through the cafeteria line on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 to get a cafeteria lunch.

Members in attendance: Dr. Cheryl Benson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Jackie Samuels, Principal, Elizabeth Mitchell, Director of NC Pre-Kindergarten Program

Dr. Benson started the meeting by telling Mrs. Maynor that she did not want to be at West Hoke Elementary but under the circumstances she had no choice. This was the third time trying to find out the truth in why a child in question from her class was sent through the cafeteria to get a lunch when [redacted] had a lunch box from home. The first time was with Mr. Samuels and second time was with Ms. Mitchell and she states, now the third time it with me.

Dr. Benson- First let's start with the procedures. Mrs. Maynor is asked to explain her procedures for lunch.

Teacher – Mrs. Thomas seats the students with lunch boxes. I assist students going through the lunch line. The students who do not have nutritional requirements are given milk, fruit, etc. at the table (Mrs. Thomas and I both give them the additional food).

Dr. Benson- So you are telling me you know the procedures and guidelines, you have had the training and workshops offered? And you were in the meeting on January 12, 2012? And you clearly understand the procedures?

Teacher – Yes, I clearly understand the procedures, I was in the meeting, and I know the procedures and guidelines for supplementing students' lunch boxes.

Dr. Benson – Now, this is your third opportunity to tell the truth. The date in question is January 31, 2012.

Dr. Benson – Why was the child in question sent through the cafeteria line to get a plate?

Teacher denies sending the child through the line to get a plate.

Dr. Benson – This is your child in your classroom and you do not remember on January 31st sending her through the line?

Teacher – I did not send anyone through the line to get a plate. (Mrs. Maynor explains again that Mrs. Thomas seats the students with lunch boxes and she assists the ones going through the line).

Teacher – I do not remember sending the child through the line.

Dr. Benson – If you did not send the child through the line why did the parent call and ask if she would have to pay since she went through the line?

Dr. Benson – You are still telling me you don't remember!

Teacher – I don't remember! I'm telling you I don't remember.

Dr. Benson - O' yes you do remember, you are just not telling the truth!

Dr. Benson – Who's in the charge of the classroom?

Teacher – I am.

Dr. Benson - You are not telling the truth and the report shows the child went through the line on January 31st. (Teacher still can't remember) Are you saying this four year old child got up and went through the lunch line on her own? No, she did not get up and go on her own! You told her to go! Do you realize this four year old child went all day long with only 3 chicken nuggets to eat since breakfast? And you still don't remember. If you don't remember what does that tell me about your knowledge in the classroom?

Teacher – When we sent the child through the line she didn't have what she was supposed to have.

Dr. Benson – So you do remember!

Teacher – I don't know what I was thinking when you asked. I was thinking about January 26th, the day Mrs. Ellebre was here (tears and more tears).

Dr. Benson – Do you know how scared that child was and then have to go all day with only 3 chicken nuggets?

Teacher – I don't know why I did it? I'm sorry it happened (more tears).

Dr. Benson – I'm sorry it happened too.

Discussion

What did the child have in her lunch box? (Sandwich, chips, apple sauce)

Is there a pattern to her lunches? She usually brings a sandwich, chips, juice, and a fruit and always eats all of her food. What was missing or different about her lunch on January

31st to make you send h through the line to get a plate? (Teacher never gave any specifics for sending the child through the line to get a plate)

Dr. Benson – What bothers me the most . . . with the media and the national news targeting a child in your classroom you did not attempt to tell the truth.

Teacher – I'm sorry, I'm so sorry!

Teacher – I have been doing this for twenty three years I would never intentionally hurt a child. I do not know what I was thinking.

Dr. Benson – This is a major thing you need to reflect on it and learn from it we all have. I will be sharing this information with Dr. Williamson. A letter will be going into your personnel file, it will also address the disrespect you have shown Mr. Samuels and Ms. Mitchell. You will be hand delivered a copy.