

July 7, 2017

The following is Charles County Public Schools information about Ronald Wells.

- On April 29, 2016, a Henry E. Lackey High School student made an accusation against Mr. Wells that was sexual in nature.
- When an accusation is made against an employee, Charles County Public Schools' general practice is to remove the employee from the school and place them on administrative leave with pay or assign them to a temporary position in the administrative offices until resolution of the charges. Depending on the nature of the charges, the school system notifies — as required by law — the Department of Social Services (DSS) and/or the Charles County Sheriff's Office. The school system cooperates with the outside agencies, but does not start its own investigation until DSS and law enforcement, if involved, finish their investigations. Cases handled internally can be resolved through investigation by the school system's internal investigator.
- Upon receipt of the accusation on April 29, 2016, a report was submitted by the vice principal to the Department of Social Services. As is protocol, the Department of Social Services notified the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office later referred the case to the Charles County State's Attorney's Office. There were no immediate charges placed against Mr. Wells.
- The principal notified the school system's human resources department, and Mr. Wells was instructed to report to human resources for a temporary assignment starting May 2, 2016. The principal contacted the accuser's parent and went over the accusation and the school's immediate steps as well as the investigation process.
- Mr. Wells worked at the administrative offices until the close of the 2015-16 school year in June. He returned to work at the administrative offices when teachers reported back to their schools in August. There were still no charges placed against Mr. Wells.
- On Jan. 17, 2017, a charge of attempted sex offense in the fourth degree by a person of authority was filed in the District Court. Mr. Wells was served on Jan 20, 2017, with a summons. On Jan. 27, 2017, an indictment was filed charging Mr. Wells with two counts of sex abuse of a minor and two counts of attempted sex offense in the fourth degree by a person of authority. Mr. Wells has denied the allegations and asked for a jury trial, which is scheduled for July 18. Mr. Wells completed the entire 2016-17 school year working at the administrative offices. His last day for this school year, as it was for all 10-month teachers, was June 12.

- No letter was sent home to parents when the accusation was made as no charges were filed at the time. No letter was sent home when the indictment was filed as Mr. Wells had not worked in a school since May 2016.