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August 12, 2025

Honorable Ken Paxton - Attorney General of Texas
300 W. 15th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Itasca Independent School District (District) – Bond Ethics and Conflict of Interests

Dear Mr. Paxton,

This letter is to serve as a notice and formal request asking for the office of the attorney general of the State of Texas to take immediate action regarding issues pertaining to the conduct of the superintendent of schools and board members of the Itasca Independent School District.

There are currently multiple ongoing problems and issues that have been unresolved since late 2019 in regard to the Itasca ISD. As result of the lack of response of several state offices and agencies including the office of the attorney general, taxpayers had no choice but to take their grievances to the federal level. In February and March of this year multiple federal criminal complaints were filed with the DOJ and SEC regarding serious matters of concern including fraud and corruption involving the financial conduct and lack of transparency by the district. The DOJ responded and directed these complaints be filed with the FBI including additional criminal complaints being filed based on new information and records discovered pertaining to solar farm Chapter 313 Agreements signed and executed by the district. Civil lawsuits are in process and being assembled to be filed against the superintendent of schools and board members that have served or currently serving the district since the 2019-2020 annual school year. These will be filed in federal court regarding multiple violations that have been committed and now part of the public record regarding the oppression and disregard of civil rights of citizens as enumerated in the US Constitution including the 1st, 5th, 14th, and 16th amendments.

School officials in Texas have acted in manor(s) that are outside any normal realm of authority based on false pretense that they are above the law and have been empowered by the State of Texas and have a right or power to suppress, ignore and disregard the rights of citizens of the US residing within the jurisdiction of the Itasca ISD taxing entity.

The work and efforts to get these lawsuits filed has been in progress since early 2020. I have been involved not only with the Itasca ISD as being a resident within the Itasca ISD taxing jurisdiction but also as a consultant working for legal counsel and as an advocate for taxpayers regarding work in the Rio Grande Valley by the US Justice Department and the criminal investigation

into the La Joya ISD. I have knowledge and experience firsthand as a former energy engineer and contractor that resigned my position due to rampant fraud and corruption, I witnessed in school districts in Texas over a long period of time during my tenure and in my position.

Regarding the Itasca ISD and current and ongoing issues surrounding three bond referendums put forth by the district based on fraudulent and deceptive methods this letter is being sent to your office. The Texas Education Agency has failed to respond and take action regarding several criminal actions taken by the district going back to 2016 and multiple violations of the TEA code. Part of these actions include the practice of fraud and deception of information put forth by the district regarding the three bond referendums put forth since 2022 including the latest bond referendum voted on and passed by the Itasca ISD board on August 7th during a special called board meeting. On August 11th during the regularly scheduled board meeting a presentation was done for the board and those attending from the public regarding “Bond Ethics” as stated in the agenda. This presentation was given by representatives from WRA one of the largest architectural firms that work for school districts. This action and presentation is a complete violation and conflict of interest. WRA is the recipient of millions of dollars’ worth of contracts as a direct result of bonds being put forth by the district and passed by voters.

The presentation was lacking in major areas regarding transparency and factual information regarding bond referendums. The superintendent of schools and serving board members have failed to be transparent and honest in regard to the financial data and information regarding bond referendums voted on by the board in three consecutive proposed bond referendums. The data used and collected from the district going back to the May 2022 bond has been collected and assembled as evidence in the federal criminal complaints filed to date. These actions were necessary due the lack of performance and duty by multiple state agencies and levels of law enforcement. These facts have been documented entirely and are irrefutable evidence in court.

Based on the information presented and shared by representatives from WRA a key area of concern was disclosed regarding what a superintendent of schools can and cannot do in regard to promoting a bond referendum. A superintendent of schools is restricted in every manner regarding the promotion of bond referendums and the use of district services, materials, and social media. The superintendent of schools Mrs. Tonya Harris produced a video shared on the district’s social media platform regarding the bond put forth for the May 3rd ballot.

Summary and Closing Statement

The main purpose of this letter is for public record of the actions taken by taxpayers and the plaintiff filing the lawsuits to prove due process was followed. Based on past history and responses from the office of the attorney general a response or action(s) taken by this office are not expected but will become part of the public record and evidence for the court.

Taxpayers are demanding transparency and integrity from public servants at all levels of government in Texas, and we have received everything but this for decades. The Attorney General's office has three days from the date this letter is received to provide a response. This letter and notice is to highlight what appear to be major violations of the code of ethics and conduct as demonstrated by the superintendent of schools and board members of the Itasca ISD. If there is no response the necessary actions will be taken to include this letter and notice to the list of evidence for the new federal criminal complaints being assembled at this time and the steps underway to file civil lawsuits in federal court. These actions are necessary because the State of Texas, elected leaders and multiple state agencies have failed to police, monitor and manage the actions of local school superintendents and board members in Texas for many years.

If the office of the attorney general decides to intervene and take action, it will be well received and appreciated by taxpayers and homeowners of Itasca. Taxpayers demand better from elected officials including school district officials. We simply desire to be treated fairly and with the facts regarding ALL financial matters that have an impact on them personally.

Your quick and immediate response is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jeff Mashburn
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Itasca, Texas 76055
Texas Conservative Alliance
Commonsenselaw.org

cc: Texas Education Agency- Mike Morath
Governor of Texas- Mr. Gregg Abbott
Office of the US Attorney General- Pam Bondi
Securities and Exchange Commission- Matthew Gulde
Stu Madison- Legal Counsel Itasca ISD
Brian Bassett- Board President Itasca ISD