

Summary of Report of Findings of Fact in Confidential Investigation “A”

At a special meeting of the Smithtown Central School District Board of Education held on February 1, 2024, the Board adopted a resolution appointing special counsel to investigate whether Board member Karen Wontrobski-Ricciardi disclosed confidential information, that had been discussed in executive session on January 23, 2024. All Board members and the Superintendent were interviewed.

The facts revealed that the Administration had discussed the need to take a particular personnel action regarding a teacher. The Board approved the proposed action and a meeting was scheduled between the administration, the teacher, and their representative(s). After the meeting, the teacher told their representative that they had already been aware of the proposed action and had been advised of the information by Board member Karen Wontrobski-Ricciardi. Relaying this information to the teacher would be a breach of the Board's confidentiality. Board member Wontrobski-Ricciardi, as well as all other Board members, denied providing any information about the proposed personnel action to the teacher or anyone else. The teacher and another individual involved did not respond to requests for an interview and therefore did not cooperate with the investigation.

The investigation concluded that there was no basis to conclude on the investigatory record that Board member Wontrobski-Ricciardi provided the information to the teacher and the allegation could not be substantiated.