

Meet your new trustee Joan Berndt – Chris Fellin

November 20 – From Chris Fellin

Hello Ms. Berndt,

On the patch you made the comment below. When you say "There is a reason why Ms. Greenwell and her supporters refuse to participate with the rest of our community in open discussion and dialogue, and it is because their lies and outrageous propaganda won't stand up to honest scrutiny", you are out of line. I am a supporter. I am not a liar. I do not propagate "outrageous propaganda that won't stand up to honest scrutiny".

Over the past 3 years, I have attended more board meetings and study sessions than any board member. I continue to watch all board meetings from home. I gather most of my information directly from the district. I served on the FNI team. To say that I won't come join discussion at OBU or the District is inappropriate. I have tried repeatedly to engage over the past several years and my voice is dismissed.

Finally, since you are a member of OBU, I must remind you that others directly and/or indirectly aligned with OBU have said and done outrageous things for which you should be ashamed.

The reason I write you is to request a public apology at the next board meeting. You may not have intended to paint me as you did with your written word, but you did and therefore you have acted inappropriately.

Sincerely,

Chris

[Joan Berndt](#) – Patch Comment [November 2, 2011](#)

There is a reason why Ms. Greenwell and her supporters refuse to participate with the rest of our community in open discussion and dialogue, and it is because their lies and outrageous propaganda won't stand up to honest scrutiny. The real question is, why are the B 20/20 folks determined to ruin our property values and destroy our school community? This is an appeal to all B20/20 folks: take Brandon up on his suggestion and come join open and honest discussion at OBU; better yet, join some of the Community Partnership Committees. Take a cue from George Derderian, who understands what is at stake for all of us.

from [Berndt, Joan](mailto:JBerndt@bloomfield.org) JBerndt@bloomfield.org

to Chris Fellin <chris.fellin@gmail.com>
cc "Day, Ingrid" <IDay@bloomfield.org>
date Sun, Nov 27, 2011 at 3:09 PM

Hello Chris:

Thanks for welcoming me to the Board.

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner; my board mailbox has just been set up, and then there was a little thing known as Thanksgiving holiday time to delay my response.

A few items for your consideration: #1--I made the comment you refer to on the Patch blog on November 2, before I applied for the Board position and obviously before I was appointed. #2-- I am not the only one who voiced similar sentiments on that particular blog...check out several other comments that also were printed . #3-- I never mentioned you by name and never said you lied, so if you wish to take umbrage because you identify with "Ms. Greenwell and her supporters" that is your prerogative but not my concern. #4--I expressed my opinion as a private citizen and not as a member of the Board, therefore I did not act inappropriately. #5--I do not owe you an apology and none is forthcoming. #6--I have several pages of material where I could cite examples of "lies and outrageous propaganda" with sources and quotes, but I would prefer not to go there.

It is long past time to try to heal the wounds of the past and stop the blood letting, because it is so detrimental to our community. If you wish to contact me in the future about other concerns, I would be happy to listen to them.

Now, could we all just try to get along?

Sincerely,

Joan Berndt

November 27 – From Chris Fellin

Ms. Berndt,

I would like to propose reasonable first steps towards "getting along."

1. Admit your comments on the Patch were inappropriate. Whether as a private citizen or board member, you are accountable for what you say. Your words were aimed directly at Ms. Greenwell, and when you include "her supporters" I take your accusations as a personal affront.
2. You say you "could cite examples of lies and outrageous propaganda" with sources and quotes but (I) would prefer not to go there." I am not afraid to admit when misinformed and work hard to provide facts by attending board meetings, study sessions, by serving on the FNI committee and by obtaining information through FOIA requests. I will always course correct when presented with new information.
3. You seem willing to make serious accusations, yet dismiss your obligation to support them with facts. I believe the only way to begin "getting along" is to lay your claims on the table so there can be constructive conversation. Please send me evidence of "lies and outrageous propaganda" that Bloomfield 20/20 or I personally have propagated so that we can begin a productive dialogue.
4. The "wounds of the past" are not my concern. I frankly don't know what you're referring to; I prefer to focus on the future of this school district.

Sincerely,

Chris