

Letter to the Editor

Dr. Curry Responds to County Times Story

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to read the article you wrote regarding the story of the Instructional Assistant at Huntingtown High School. I do not recall you contacting us to get any confirmation as to the veracity of her story. As you know we cannot discuss specifics of such an employee matter, and neither can we discuss the specifics of consequences for a student with or without special needs. I can say that much of what you published is not accurate. Plus, you revealed enough information about the student that you risk identifying him/her to those who may live in the community. Then you take a story with many inaccuracies and you turn it into a front-page headline – "Huntingtown Horror." Does the County Times plan to make it a habit of publishing stories without confirming the validity of the information? As a professional journalist, do you take responsibility for the accuracy of your work and verify information before releasing it?

I can tell you this, for any employees who may experience trauma in the workplace we have extensive services offered through our Employee Assistance Pro-

gram. We have outstanding health insurance which can provide mental health care at little to no cost. We offer them new assignments in new locations. We often extend beyond the required support and exceed the maximum amount of time authorized under Family Medical Leave Act. I can assure you that Calvert County Public Schools has conformed to all the governing regulations of FMLA, Assault Leave, Union Negotiated Agreements, and Worker's Compensation.

Daniel D. Curry, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Calvert County Public Schools

Editor's Note:

After receiving the above letter by email The County Times twice extended an invitation to Dr. Curry to further elaborate on his comments. He preferred to have the above letter run instead. The County Times stands by the article as an accurate representation of what the woman told us about the incident and its aftermath. She has confirmed that accuracy.