

# Security Complaint and Lack of Accountability at

## **Riverwalk Academy**

**5750 Mt Gallant Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29730**



**Oct 25, 2016**

# Summary of Violations Per Riverwalk Academy's Published Code of Conduct

Riverwalk Academy Code of Conduct Jan 11, 2016

- ❑ **Security Breach** with parents being allowed in a classroom setting to intimidate other children on their child's behalf **(p.3 Learner Rights: To pursue a successful education in a safe environment... Parent Partner Rights To expect [a] safe learning environment for their child(ren.)**
- ❑ **Ineffective Conflict Resolution** by classroom teacher and administrators **(p.3 Learner Rights: To receive fair and equitable treatment without discrimination in every aspect of the educational system To be given the opportunity to be heard, as well as, have witnesses and/or an advocate speak on one's behalf.)**
- ❑ **Ineffective Communication and Engagement from Principal Charlie French**, where she simply refuses to respond to emails and voicemail to address concerns and resolve issues **(p.3 Parent Partner Rights: To request and be granted conferences with school personnel**



# Summary of Violations Per Riverwalk Academy's Published Code of Conduct cont.

Riverwalk Academy Code of Conduct Jan 11, 2016

Continued from previous page.

## ☐ Ineffective Communication and Engagement from Principal Charlie French,

- Repeated requests for in person conference via email were ignored
- Voicemails weren't returned
- Meanwhile another parent, who avoided the bureaucratic protocol, just walked in off the street (there are no metal detectors) and went into the classroom, had her child point out **my child, Noah Baldwin**, and put him at risk on school property with threatening behavior (**p.4 Parent Partner Responsibilities: To respect the rights, dignity, and confidentiality of learners, parent partners, guardians and staff .)**



# Summary of Violations Per Riverwalk Academy's Published Code of Conduct cont.

Riverwalk Academy Code of Conduct Jan 11, 2016

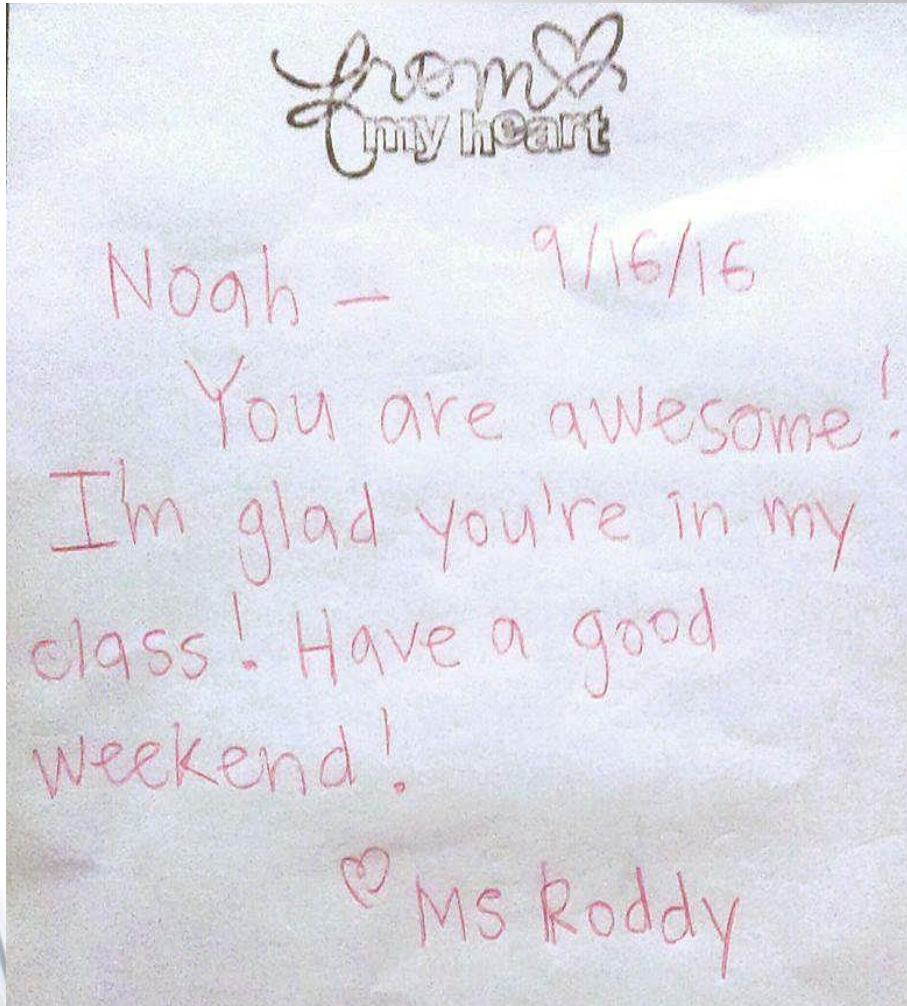
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- ❑ **Lack of Accountability by Principal French** for protecting one child's privacy while exposing my child to public censure by that child's parent and ignoring the original violation of my child's personal space and destruction of his property that precipitated him defending himself **(p.3 Learner Rights: To resolve problems and issues while providing dignity for all. P3: Learner Responsibilities: To respect the personal, civil, and property rights of others . p.5 School Personnel Responsibilities: To respect the rights, dignity, and confidentiality of learners, parent partners, guardians, and other staff ? To be proactive toward resolving issues ? To establish a safe environment that supports the school mission and core values To be fair, equitable, and consistent in all interactions)**





# Noah is a Good Kid



Ms. Roddy documented how pleased she was with Noah just over a month ago – 9/16/2016. But after he started attending the Iwin early morning and after school program in the last month, he was racially profiled targeted by a teacher and the vice principle who were unfamiliar with his academic record and previous glowing reputation with Ms. Roddy, I reported the incidents because it was obvious they were attempting to build a false narrative about Noah and our family will not tolerate that.

# Noah is Academically Gifted

September 15, 2016

Report Card for: Noah Baldwin

Principal: Mrs. Charlie French  
Phone: 803-327-8400

Absences: 0

Tardies: 0

Class	Teacher	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year Grade	Comments
Homeroom 3	Roddy, Christy	--					
Language Arts 3	Roddy, Christy	100					
Math 3	Roddy, Christy	94					
Science 3	Roddy, Christy	--					--
Social Studies 3	Roddy, Christy	--					--
ART ELM	Schauer, Kristen						--
General Music	Wolfe, Necie	100					

- Received the highest Map Math score for the entire 3rd grade at Riverwalk Academy
- Consistently scores A's in his classes.



# Email From Noah's Music Teacher

-----Original Message-----

From: Necie Wolfe <[nwolfe.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:nwolfe.riverwalk@gmail.com)>

To: ashbrooke1984 <[ashbrooke1984@aol.com](mailto:ashbrooke1984@aol.com)>

Sent: Mon, Sep 26, 2016 03:49 PM

Subject: Music with Noah

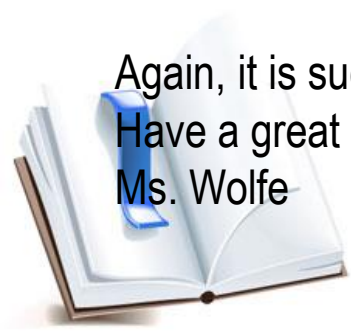
Good afternoon,

My name is Necie Wolfe and I have the pleasure of being Noah's music teacher. I wanted to reach out to you to let you know what an amazing job Noah did in music class today! We were working on drumstick techniques and bucket drumming. Noah excelled in every aspect... he properly chanted and played the rhythms, used appropriate drumming technique and was an active participant.

Again, it is such a joy to teach Noah!

Have a great rest of your day.

Ms. Wolfe





# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and Staff

Hello Mrs. French,

I understand that you had a phone meeting with Mrs. Baldwin, but we still need an **in person meeting** to discuss whatever has been documented in Noah's folder - with full disclosure and copies.

I'm just going to be honest with you, trust is a major issue at this point and we don't feel comfortable with just phone interaction. We also have no confidence that anything has been documented on the child who came up to Noah while he was working quietly, snatched his drawing and tore it in half - which was what precipitated Noah defending himself in the first place. Supposedly, the teacher witnessed this exchange and did nothing when the paper was snatched and destroyed. How is that possible? I understand your policy on privacy, but you need to understand our position on accepting you at just your word given the situation and our experiences thus far.

## Continued on next page





# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and staff

We have a list of grievances that have not been addressed and we will need a satisfactory resolution on those, or we will be forced to escalate to the state level and the media.

This is just a sample:

- **Noah has been targeted by adults (Mrs. Stookey)**
- **Has been bullied by other students for his hair, his drawings and career aspirations,**
- **Has "lost" two expensive hoodies in the Iwin program in the last month**
- **Had other students refuse to acknowledge him in the roles of leader/timer/scribe for projects, etc.**
- **There is a bigger issue here and we want it addressed and resolved. If you don't feel confident handling it at the school, we will get the help we need from a higher level.**

**Please advise what time you are available to have an in person conference with us.**

Best Regards,

Tracy L. Baldwin, MBB, PMP, CSM

I have attached a photo of the handwritten note that Mrs. Roddy sent home with Noah on September 16, 2016 about what a wonderful student he is.

**Continued on next page**

# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and staff

-----Original Message-----

From: ashbrooke1984 <[ashbrooke1984@aol.com](mailto:ashbrooke1984@aol.com)>

To: cfrench.riverwalk <[cfrench.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:cfrench.riverwalk@gmail.com)>

Sent: Mon, Oct 24, 2016 9:27 am

Subject: Re: Mrs. Baldwin Concern

Good morning Mrs. French,

**Could you please call me to schedule an appointment with you as soon as possible. I have major concerns that need to be addressed.**

Thank you,

Mrs. Ashleigh Baldwin

Continued on next page



# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and staff

-----Original Message-----

From: ashbrooke1984 <[ashbrooke1984@aol.com](mailto:ashbrooke1984@aol.com)>

To: croddy.riverwalk <[croddy.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:croddy.riverwalk@gmail.com)>

Cc: cfrench.riverwalk <[cfrench.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:cfrench.riverwalk@gmail.com)>; cstepp.riverwalk <[cstepp.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:cstepp.riverwalk@gmail.com)>

Sent: Sun, Oct 23, 2016 03:06 PM

Subject: Re: Mrs. Baldwin Concern

If this situation was such an urgent matter why wasn't he sent to the office Friday.??? You can have Mrs. French contact me. I'm tired of my child being singled out when people bother him as well. Noah advised you where testing other students and not in the room.

It was very awkward to be met at the front door when picking him up on Friday. I was not prepared to discuss anything at that moment. We were not in a private setting to discuss this matter. However I do have additional concerns and questions. There's two parts to every situation.

Now all of a sudden after speaking with Ms. Stepp earlier this week in regards to another situation Noah is all of a sudden a problem child.

**Mrs. French I'm requesting a conference with you as soon as possible.**

Thank you,

Ashleigh Baldwin

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# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and staff

Original Message-----

From: Christy Roddy <[croddy.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:croddy.riverwalk@gmail.com)>

To: ashbrooke1984 <[ashbrooke1984@aol.com](mailto:ashbrooke1984@aol.com)>

Cc: cstepp.riverwalk <[cstepp.riverwalk@gmail.com](mailto:cstepp.riverwalk@gmail.com)>

Sent: Fri, Oct 21, 2016 05:00 PM

Subject: Re: Mrs. Baldwin Concern

Mrs Baldwin,

I understand that Noah didn't see me, but you can let him know that I was standing in the back of the room, in the doorway of what used to be Mrs Tucker's room. Noah was part of a group of boys standing in front of the other child's desk. He was not sitting doing his work. What happened is what Noah told you happened when we talked in person today.

I'm sure you understand that I cannot discuss the other child. You will be contacted on Monday, either by Mrs Stepp or myself.

## Continued on next page





# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and staff

Have a good weekend.

Ms Roddy

On Fri, Oct 21, 2016 at 3:45 PM, <[ashbrooke1984@aol.com](mailto:ashbrooke1984@aol.com)> wrote:

Hi Ms. Roddy,

**I tried calling you back twice today.** In regards to Noah's lunch, he actually forgot it on the kitchen table today.

Secondly when picking him up you advised Noah to explain to me what happened in class today. **To begin with my child advised that he was sitting in his seat working on an assignment/paper and another child walked over to his personal space asking to see it. Noah responded NO to that child. Next the child took my child's paper and ripped it in half.** That was very inappropriate. I'm also concerned about your whereabouts during the incident?? To my understanding you didn't witness any of this? **This other child needs to be reprimanded as well.**



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# Email Chain from Correspondence with Principal French and staff

Hitting someone is not appropriate. However it could have been a natural reflex when some destroys your personal property. Imagine yourself in this same scenario as an adult. I have talked to Noah however it's to the point where Noah feels he is called/singled out after someone initially bothers him first. The other child needs to be held accountable for their actions.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Baldwin

## End of chain



# Public Complaints From Other Parents About Principal French's Ineffectiveness



**Jake Julie Faulkenberry** reviewed Riverwalk Academy — 1★

July 19 · 🌐



We had bought into the idea of what this school stated they were going to do and how they would educated but after 2 yrs of having our 3 boys there is has been made very clear to us that this was the WORST decision we could have made !!! All 3 of my boys are significantly behind in their education - just finished 6th, 4th and 1st graded as compared to other children in the county and state but NO ONE with the school seems to care (my boys are not the only ones behind). Not only did their education seem to fall behind but their over all emotional health was effected in a negative way do to Conscious Discipline. As parents we thought we had made the best decision for our boys but we were sadly mistaken!!! I urge and beg each parent to NOT send their children to this school and live with the regret !!! Don't believe in all that is said - do your research and ask questions but don't be shocked when you get NO answers. So happy to have our boys out of this place.

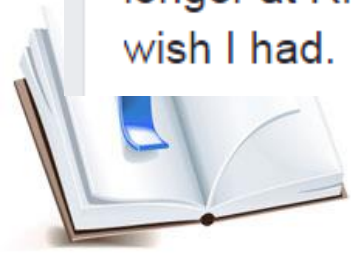
# Public Complaints From Other Parents About Principal French's Ineffectiveness 2



**Megan Faile Bangle** reviewed Riverwalk Academy — 1★

May 6 · 🌐

This school comes off as the "Place to be". That's a great slogan until you are actually there. There is no discipline whatsoever. My kids wake up every single day begging to not go to school and they used to love school. Kids here are being picked on and bullied and there is nothing be done about it. The administration has been aware of issues happening with our kids and there hasn't been any resolution. I have talked to several parents that are having the same problems and they are just scared to speak out about it due to fear of how their kids will be treated if they do. We are counting down the days until we are done with this school year and are no longer at Riverwalk. Please think twice before enrolling your children here. I sure wish I had.





# Public Complaints From Other Parents About Principal French's Ineffectiveness 3



**Rikki Rheames** reviewed Riverwalk Academy — 1★

April 27 · 🌐

I had 3 children in Riverwalk since the start up, each in different grades. I was sold on the Principals dream which got lost in day-to-day operations.

The school will be 20 miles away from the initial proposition. Yet another I filled promise.

Teacher and administration turnover is unacceptably high. Likely because there is constant change in the interpretation of the mission. Even the unpaid teachers aides speak poorly of the way the school is run.

Children are leaving this school by the boatloads. This is creating alarm with the administration and they are taking any kid who applies. Unfortunately, the inbound students are often the rejects from other schools. They have high behavior problems which negatively impacts the hard working students.

Stay where you are. This is just not a viable option when considering your childs development. I pulled my kids.

# Public Complaints From Other Parents About Principal French's Ineffectiveness 4



**Thomas Richardson** reviewed **Riverwalk Academy** — 1★

April 27 · 🌐

Horrible! The (bulk) teacher pool is bottom of the barrel. The administration is promoting a "conscious discipline" program that the teachers don't even understand & misapply. Children are publicly criticized. They do not have music, PE, etc regularly. Recess is usually cancelled not allowing children regular physical activity. Children are disciplined solely in the reports of other children. I honestly cannot even think of all the problems we encountered. The premise of project learning is great, but the application is extremely poor. I pulled my child and strongly advise anyone to avoid this school like the plague.



# The End

