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Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2010 4:20 PM

To: FCPS WATCHDOG GROUP (fcpswatchdog@stopterc.com)

Subject: FCPS WATCHDOG #1: BoE President Kathryn Groth says "FCPS serves no fried foods" - Is that fact or fiction (and a violation of Board Rules)?



On August 18, 2010, 15 of the 16 Board of Education candidates participated in a candidates forum. The forum video is on the [FNP multimedia web page](#).

On August 24 and August 25 the Frederick News Post published a 'letter to the editor' by the President of the Frederick County Board of Education, Kathryn B. Groth. In [Part I](#) and [Part II](#), of her letters, Kathryn slams the candidates in their forum for 'not being able to separate opinion from fact' -- and because of that, she felt it necessary to 'correct the record'.

However, Kathryn herself during her 'correction' presents many numerous false statements as 'facts'. In doing so, Kathryn has grossly violated the FCPS Board of Education's own 'Rules of Conduct', which state that all Board Members must "*Clearly distinguish opinions from facts. Ensure all statements of fact are accurate and verifiable*".

Board Rule: "*Clearly distinguish opinions from facts. Ensure all statements of fact are accurate and verifiable.*"
- FCPS Board of Education "Code of Conduct"

But as we have seen in the past, the Board does not enforce their own rules and actually allows Board Members to *knowingly make false statements to the public*, under the protection of the First Admendment. [source: MSDE Order No. 10-01]. So, Kathryn knows that she can say or do anything without any real consequence.

Kathryn claims "FCPS serves no fried foods", but is that true?

Kathryn states as a fact in her LTE that FCPS "serve(s) absolutely no foods that are fried" and that FCPS serves "well-balanced meals".



Well-balanced? Simply review the [FCPS School Menus](#) for yourself and you can confirm that a child attending FCPS can eat nothing but Pizza virtually every single day of the school year. Is pizza every single day of the school year a well-balanced diet and nutritious? Worse yet, on August 27, I personally ate an Elementary School Lunch, *and the vegetable (peas) was not on the tray!* It was up to the child to scoop the vegetable onto their own tray, if they wanted it. *Of course I watched as almost no child took the peas.* I did, and it was a disgusting discolored tasteless canned mush.

Fried? FCPS serves Utz potato chips, which according to Utz itself says their "[potato chips are fried in pure, non-hydrogenated vegetable oils](#)".

"the chicken nuggets are deep fried, frozen, and then we bake them"
- FCPS cafeteria worker
"potato chips are fried in pure, non-hydrogenated vegetable oils"



Also, FCPS serves "Baked Chicken Nuggets".

- Utz website

When I asked a cafeteria worker about the 'baked' chicken nuggets, I was told "Oh, the chicken nuggets are **deep fried**, frozen, and then we bake them". **So, Kathryn is wrong. FCPS does serve fried foods.**

What about all of the other prepared foods that FCPS serves - how many of those are also fried? FCPS does NOT post nutrition information on their web site and instead force you to contact the Food Service Office to obtain them [[source](#)].

It is way past time for full disclosure on the part of FCPS and for Kathryn to appologize publicly at a BoE meeting for improperly presenting her opinion as a fact, and by doing so, violating the BoE Code of Conduct.

What do you think?

If you know of anyone that wants to be added or removed from this distribution list, contact fcpswatchdog@stopterc.com