

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
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Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS SUSPENDS CHS TEACHER

Monday, Feb. 8, 2010 – Officials with Anderson County Schools suspended a Clinton High School social studies teacher on Thursday, Feb. 4, after allegations of improper conduct with a student were made.

Megan Baumann, 27, left CHS within hours after Principal Linda Davis received a report of concerns expressed by two students about the relationship between the teacher and another student.

Director of Schools Larry Foster said that Davis, ACS Human Resources Director Larry Pierce, and other administrators interviewed the teacher at about noon, after school officials had gathered additional information Thursday morning.

Pierce said Foster immediately suspended Baumann without pay, per school board policy, and he said Baumann left the campus at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Pierce, citing state law (TCA Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 301) said that while the director of schools can terminate an untenured teacher's contract before it expires, the law provides a list of specific requirements, including the teacher's right to request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer and the right to be represented by counsel.

Foster said school officials notified the Department of Children's Services, the Anderson County District Attorney's office, and the Clinton Police Department of the allegations against Baumann on Thursday afternoon.

Foster said he agreed that afternoon to a request from Attorney General David Clark to withhold comment or responses to questions from the media or the public until Monday.

"We want to be sure that we don't do anything that compromises the investigation," Foster said. "General Clark asked us to withhold comment until today, and, once we agreed, we felt it was important for us to honor that agreement."

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Foster said calls and emails were sent to CHS staff members and CHS parents through the schools' automated system Sunday evening, and he emphasized the system's prompt response to the allegations of misconduct.

"Any allegations involving improper conduct in our school system are taken seriously and investigated immediately," Foster said. "The school district will not tolerate improper conduct, and appropriate corrective action will be taken."

Davis said counselors are available to, and have been meeting with, students who have concerns about the issues raised.

Baumann, who interned at Clinton High School in 2007-2008 while a student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, has taught social studies at CHS since August 2008.

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