

Subject: Auburn Career Center Refuses to Pay \$1.4M Judgement

To the \_\_\_\_\_

The Auburn Career Centers Board and its attorneys have taken this lawsuit all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court and failed, yet they still refuse to pay!

Auburn currently owes money to 43 people per the current judgment. 43 current and former staff members who have been waiting patiently for over 12 years for this to be resolved. As it stands, the Auburn Board now has three estates to which it needs to pay due to the length of this litigation. The Auburn district has more than enough funds to pay the judgment in its entirety, but they have decided to keep fighting a losing legal battle and give the taxpayers money to their attorneys instead.

Additionally the Auburn Board is refusing to apply its share of money into Ohio STRS. The district's refusal to not pay Ohio STRS not only affects the past and present Auburn employees, but about 500,000 active, inactive and retired Ohio public educators. STRS themselves have said that they would accept the money owed to them by the district. If you were to look at any other Career Tech center in Ohio that pays a supplemental stipends to its staff you would see that it too is STRS compensable. STRS penalties and interest will only continue to grow as this nonsense continues.

Worst of all, in an effort to pay the staff less, the Auburn Board has made the decision to pull students out of their program classes in lieu of a glorified study hall called "Ace Time". These students made the choice to come to Auburn to learn a skill or trade and are now removed from these programs every day of the week for 40 minutes. Now this continued fight is affecting the students!

The Auburn staff believed that through sound reasoning and common sense we would have settled this matter long ago. However we now feel that we have a moral and ethical responsibility to inform the public of the misuse of their tax dollars. It gives us no joy bringing this to the public's attention as we love our school and our students, but we feel that we have no other option.

This started more than 12 years ago over roughly \$150,000 and has now ballooned to over \$1,400,000 because of the Boards refusal to admit fault. The Board also refuses to show exactly how much of taxpayers' public money they have spent on legal fees regarding this matter under the guise of attorney-client privilege. We feel that the taxpayers have a right to know.

We are asking for your help. We are asking that you question the Auburn Boards reasoning to continue this lost fight and get the answers the tax-payers deserve to know. They do not respect nor respond openly and honestly to us.

If you would like to discuss any further, please contact CATA President:

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If you would like to contact Auburn's Superintendent:

Brian Bontempo

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If you would like to contact the President of Auburn School Board:

Roger Miller