

STATEMENT FROM  
BASD SCHOOL DIRECTOR LELAND CLARK  
January 23, 2107

At the end of September, the administration reported to the board that the water was safe. Bill Halle asked Dr. Lumley to verify this information. I asked Bill to let me know if Dr. Lumley provided verification that the water was safe.

Over the next couple weeks, the feedback that we, the board, received back from the administration was that yes, the water was safe and that they were following up on it.

Something about the whole situation did not feel right to me. I just had a feeling in my gut that we weren't getting the truth. I kept the issue on my radar over the next month and a half, talking to a few people in the community and a couple people that worked at the school. At the same time, I was seeing different reports in the news about the investigations in Flint, Michigan. I learned how, in Flint, both DEP officials and city officials conspired to cover up evidence of lead in the water. So by the end of November, I became really concerned that there may be some kind of cover up by school district officials, or the Department of Environmental Protection, or by both agencies.

So I did some research for about a week on Right to Know Requests and DEP records. I kept this a secret because I didn't want anybody getting tipped off so that they could destroy evidence.

On December 6, 2016, I filed my Right to Know request. I then went back and forth with the DEP for a month and a half before they finally delivered all the records to me on January 17, 2017. Although not an expert in reading water test results, what I saw looked really bad. The actual numbers of lead in the water had never been provided to the Board or the public.

Within hours, I contacted School Board President Nina Teff with this information. We immediately took everything in to our solicitor, Tom King, the next day.

From there, Mrs. Teff and Mr. King took over and began managing the crisis and the investigation.