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Accountability: Millsap ISD Must Remove Superintendent Mari Edie Martin Immediately

MILLSAP, TEXAS – The people of Millsap are outraged, heartbroken, and demanding justice. At the center of this firestorm is a 10-year-old autistic, non-verbal boy who was allegedly abused¹ by the very people entrusted to care for him. And instead of protecting him, Millsap ISD Superintendent Mari Edie Martin is accused of doing the unthinkable: turning her back on the child and working to cover it up.

The allegations are clear and sickening. A video, obtained by the child's mother, appears to show a teacher and a teacher's aide swinging at and physically mistreating her son in a special education classroom. Another student, according to a separate incident, was taken into a so-called "calm-down room" and returned with a bloody nose. While one educator claims the child ran into a wall, that child later disclosed he had been punched. These are children with disabilities. These are children who needed patience, compassion, and protection.

Superintendent Martin allegedly waited over a week to report this abuse. She allegedly urged a witness to destroy videos and messages that showed what happened. This is not just a failure to lead — this is a betrayal of every child, every parent, and every educator who believes that schools must be a sanctuary, not a site of secrecy and cruelty.

And yet, tonight, the Millsap ISD Board of Trustees will gather to discuss whether Superintendent Martin should be fired. The answer is not up for debate. It is long overdue.

We call upon each and every board member to look this community in the eye and explain how a child could be harmed on your watch — and how your district's leader could allegedly help hide it. Your names are on the line:

Jon Hartman, Vice President (jhartman@millsapisd.net)
Beth Adkins, Secretary (badkins@millsapisd.net)
Dr. Heidi Ritthaler, Member (hritthaler@millsapisd.net)
Daniele Clark, Member (dclark@millsapisd.net)
Dr. Heather Hester, Member (hhester@millsapisd.net)
Ross Beavers, Member (rbeavers@millsapisd.net)

What will you do? Will you stand for the child who was allegedly abused and silenced, or will you protect the superintendent who allegedly let it happen and helped cover it up?

¹  Millsap ISD superintendent, 2 teachers arrested after viral video showing autistic boy's alleged abu

This is not politics. This is not personal. This is about a helpless child who was reportedly harassed, hit, injured, and ignored — and about a superintendent who is accused not only of negligence, but of obstruction and concealment. If you refuse to act tonight, you are complicit.

Every day you leave Mari Edie Martin in power is another day you send a message that the safety of students, especially students with disabilities, is secondary to administrative image control. You were elected to represent the best interests of this community. Prove it.

Terminate Superintendent Mari Edie Martin now. Send a message that Millsap will not tolerate child abuse, harassment, or silence in the face of suffering.

The parents are watching. The children are watching. And history will remember where you stood.

Template Letter to Send to Board

Demand for Immediate Termination of Superintendent Mari Edie Martin

To the Millsap ISD Board of Trustees:

Jon Hartman, Vice President – jhartman@millsapisd.net

Beth Adkins, Secretary – badkins@millsapisd.net

Dr. Heidi Ritthaler, Member – hritthaler@millsapisd.net

Daniele Clark, Member – dclark@millsapisd.net

Dr. Heather Hester, Member – hhester@millsapisd.net

Ross Beavers, Member – rbeavers@millsapisd.net

As members of the Millsap ISD community — parents, educators, taxpayers, and concerned citizens — we are writing with urgency, outrage, and sorrow. We are calling on you, without hesitation or excuse, to vote for the immediate termination of Superintendent Mari Edie Martin.

The facts before you are unconscionable. A 10-year-old autistic, non-verbal student was allegedly abused in one of our classrooms — a space that is meant to be safe, supportive, and centered around compassion. The allegations are horrifying: a teacher swinging at the child, a paraprofessional allegedly punching a special needs student, and an innocent boy returning home with trauma and injuries. These are not minor infractions. These are criminal acts, and the entire nation is now watching how this board responds.

But what is perhaps most appalling is the accusation that Superintendent Martin not only failed to report this abuse promptly, but actively attempted to cover it up — allegedly waiting more than a week to report the incident and asking a witness to destroy video and text message evidence. This is not leadership. This is obstruction. This is betrayal.

We are heartbroken that a child was hurt. We are furious that the person charged with leading this district allegedly tried to silence that hurt. And we are united in our demand: Superintendent Mari Edie Martin must be terminated — not later, not after another closed-door discussion, but tonight.

To do anything less is to tell every child in our district that their safety is negotiable. That their voice does not matter. That abuse can be ignored or hidden if the person responsible wears a suit and holds a title. That is not who we are. And that is not who we should ever become.

We demand more from our leaders. We demand accountability. We demand courage.

This is your moment to rise to the responsibility you accepted when you took your oath of office. Do the right thing. Protect our children. Restore trust.

Terminate Mari Edie Martin immediately.

[Your Full Name]

[Your Address – optional]

[Your Phone/Email – optional]

Millsap ISD Parent / Community Member / Educator / Taxpayer

CC: Local Media, Legal Advocacy Organizations, Texas Education Agency