

Letter to the editor of the Lowell Sun as submitted by AFT MA President Beth Kontos

We believe the readers of The Sun deserve a clarification following “State tosses part of union complaint”, July 5, 2018, about a case filed with the Department of Labor Relations (DLR) against the Chelmsford Public Schools. The union’s perspective is particularly important since the most recent DLR decision found probable cause that the Superintendent of the Chelmsford Public Schools has already made false statements to The Sun regarding the original incident.

The DLR found that the facts support the union’s claims that the Superintendent and the School Department repeatedly violated the law, both verbally and in writing, regarding a November 22, 2017 “incident” created by school administrators themselves. They chose to call the police rather than set up a meeting to talk to the union about serious issues of work place safety. Then they repeatedly disparaged the union and its president to justify their actions.

The Superintendent says the School Department wants “put this unfortunate situation behind us”, but they’ll have to answer under oath to the DLR and the taxpayers of Chelmsford first.