



**Jason E. Mumpower, Comptroller of the Treasury**

April 20, 2022

## **Former West Creek Middle School Basketball Coach Indicted for Theft**

*West Creek Middle School is in Montgomery County*

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment of Julius Coleman, a former boys' basketball coach at West Creek Middle School in Clarksville. The investigation began after the Comptroller's Office received allegations from school officials.

Coleman, who was the boys' basketball coach from August to November 2020, misappropriated \$1,476.11 from the basketball program.

Coleman collected the majority of the money (\$1,316.10) from parents in order to purchase apparel for the basketball team. He also received a \$60 donation from a parent for the apparel order.

Although Coleman provided parents with a pickup date for the apparel, it never arrived. A parent alerted the school administration to the issue. School administrators met with Coleman and determined that he never placed the apparel order. Coleman's employment was terminated in November 2020.

Comptroller investigators also found that Coleman collected money from parents to pay rental fees for two private practices in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Coleman cancelled the second practice and failed to refund the \$100.01 to parents.

Coleman did not turn over the \$1,476.11 that he collected to the school bookkeeper for deposit. One of Coleman's family members later reimbursed the school \$1,128.05 for the apparel order; however, a shortage of \$348.06 remains.

In April 2022, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted Julius Coleman on one count of theft of over \$1,000.

"State law requires school employees to turn over collected money to the school to be deposited in the appropriate school account," said Comptroller Mumpower. "Schools must also ensure that employees accurately document collections by using prenumbered receipts, collection logs, or other appropriate documentation."

To view the investigative report, go to: <https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-functions/investigations/find.html>



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