



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

H. Y. Livesay Middle School

June 4, 2024

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JASON E. MUMPOWER
Comptroller

June 4, 2024

Claiborne County School Board Members
1403 Tazewell Road
Tazewell, TN 37879
P.O Box 179

Claiborne County School Board Officials:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the H.Y. Livesay Middle School, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 8th Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report is available for public inspection in our Office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason E. Mumpower", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

H.Y. Livesay Middle School

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to H.Y. Livesay Middle School. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period May 1, 2023, through January 11, 2024. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 8th Judicial District.

BACKGROUND



H.Y. Livesay Middle School (school) is in Harrogate, Tennessee, and is part of the Claiborne County Department of Education (CCDOE). The school serves approximately 260 students in grades five through eight.

In May 2023, the CCDOE hired a custodian, now a former custodian, for the school. The former custodian worked under the supervision of the school's principal as a 10-month employee, as she did not work in June and July. The former custodian resigned from her position on January 11, 2024.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL KNOWINGLY APPROVED A FORMER CUSTODIAN'S INACCURATE TIMESHEETS RESULTING IN UNEARNED COMPENSATION TOTALING AT LEAST \$1,844.08

During the period May 2023 through December 2023, the school principal knowingly approved a former custodian's inaccurate monthly timesheets, which overstated daily hours worked by two hours each work day. Therefore, the former custodian received compensation for two unearned hours on 89 work days at a compensation rate of \$10.36 an hour, totaling at least \$1,844.08. The former custodian's timesheets were signed by the school principal and documented that the former custodian worked full daily shifts from 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (**Refer to Exhibit 1**). According to the school principal, she authorized the former custodian's timesheets, but each day the timesheet documented full daily shifts as worked, and the school principal allowed the former custodian to leave two hours early by 7:00 p.m. due to personal obligations. The school principal stated she intended for the former custodian to make up unearned compensation hours during the summer, but the former custodian resigned prior to the summer months. CCDOE officials were unaware of

the former custodian's unearned compensation or the verbal arrangement between the school principal and the former custodian, allowing the former custodian to leave daily at 7:00 p.m.

Exhibit 1

TIME SHEET				
				August 2023
Position Held: <u>custodian</u>			School: <u>HY Livesay</u>	
Employee: [REDACTED]				
Day	Date	Hours Worked	TOTAL HOURS	Remarks
Monday	8/7/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Tuesday	8/8/23	0	0	PERSONAL
Wednesday	8/9/23	7:30-9	6.5	
Thursday	8/10/23	7:30-9	6.5	
Friday	8/11/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Monday	08/14/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Tuesday	08/15/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Wednesday	08/16/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Thursday	08/17/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Friday	08/18/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Monday	08/21/23	0	0	
Tuesday	08/22/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Wednesday	08/23/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Thursday	08/24/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Friday	08/25/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Monday	08/28/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Tuesday	08/29/23	0	0	SICK
Wednesday	08/30/23	0	0	SICK
Thursday	08/31/23	2:30-9	6.5	
Friday				
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Employee: [REDACTED] Principal/Supervisor: [REDACTED]				

The former custodian's August 2023 timesheet, signed by the former custodian and school principal

CCDOE officials indicated that they have corrected or intend to correct this investigative finding.