



“Unprotected” Fact Sheet

August 23, 2018

The Republican Party of Wisconsin’s second television ad in the 2018 Gubernatorial Election was released on August 23, 2018. The ad, titled “Unprotected” highlights Tony Evers’ dangerous pattern leaving Wisconsin school children unprotected. The ad can be viewed [here](#).

Transcript:

Parents and school officials asked Superintendent Tony Evers to revoke the license of teachers who preyed on our kids. One teacher viewed and shared pornographic images at school. Another used Snapchat to ask her student to have sex in a storage closet. Yet another teacher was caught with his pants down in the classroom. State Superintendent Tony Evers had the power to revoke their licenses, but he refused. Leaving our kids unprotected.

Statements:

1. “Parents and school officials asked Superintendent Tony Evers to revoke the license of teachers who preyed on our kids.”

When Middleton Cross-Plains Middle School teacher Andrew Harris was fired for viewing and spreading pornography at school, making inappropriate jokes and sexually explicit comments about female students, and harassing a fellow teacher, Tony Evers ignored repeated requests by school officials and parents to revoke Harris’ license.¹ Four years after an initial request to revoke Harris’ license, the Middleton School District stated it had repeatedly asked Evers to make a ruling on the license review but Evers’ agency either ignored the requests or attempted to delay the process.² During this time Evers also received several pleas from district parents as well as a request from Governor Walker to start proceedings to revoke Harris’ license.³

In another case, a school district administrator asked Evers’ agency to revoke the license of a teacher who asked special education students to view porn on their cell phones, made sexually explicit comments about female high school students, and was even found with his pants down in the classroom.⁴ The same official expressed to Evers’ agency that “it is the opinion of the administration of this district that [the teacher] should not be allowed to work in schools across our state.”⁵

2. “One teacher viewed and shared pornographic images at school.”

In 2010, a Middleton Cross-Plains Middle School teacher Andrew Harris was fired after a district investigation revealed that Harris had viewed and shared inappropriate and pornographic

material while at work.⁶ The school district's internal investigation found that Harris received and viewed dozens of emails containing pornographic material during school hours and that pornographic photographs and videos were found on Harris' school computer.⁷ The District investigation also found that Harris had on several occasions forwarded the pornographic materials via his school email and shared the materials with his coworkers.⁸ This fact was further corroborated multiple times throughout the course of this case, with several of Harris' co-workers testifying to the fact that Harris had been sharing pornographic images with his fellow teachers over the course of several years.⁹

3. "Another used Snapchat to ask her student to have sex in a storage closet."

In 2015, a Beloit Turner School teacher, Dayleen Yoerger, was forced to resign after she was caught sending inappropriate Snapchats to one of her high school students.¹⁰ An investigation by the school district and Beloit Police Department revealed that Yoerger had sent multiple sexually provocative Snapchat pictures and messages to one of her high school students. Specifically, the district found that Yoerger had done the following:¹¹

- Yoerger sent at least one Snapchat photo to a student where she was posed in a sexually provocative position displaying chest cleavage.
- Yoerger sent at least one message to the student indicating if he could sneak or get away, that she would make it worth his while.
- Yoerger sent provocative images to the student of her in the bathtub.
- Yoerger carried on Snapchat conversations with the student indicating interest in a sexual relationship.
- Yoerger sent at least one Snapchat photo to the student in which she was holding a glass of alcohol.
- Yoerger sent a Snapchat to the student indicating that she would or could make him "a drink."
- Yoerger accused the student of risking ruining her relationship with him and violating her trust by sharing one or more of these communications with other students.
- Yoerger made observable efforts to see and talk to this student after school sports games in which he participated.

The victim student explained to school officials and police officers how Yoerger was trying to initiate a sexual relationship with him, including asking him to have sex in her storage room.¹² The victim claimed he was "creeped out in [his] life and the classroom" and that he "needed to tell someone."¹³ Multiple students provided statements detailing the messages they saw sent to the victim by Yoerger as well as Yoerger's behavior toward the victim that they witnessed.¹⁴ In their statements, all three students corroborated the victim's story and detailed how Yoerger would send the victim sexually explicit snaps. The three witnesses also told the same story of Yoerger trying to lure the victim away from his friends, promising that she would make it worth his while if he could get away.¹⁵

In a letter to the parents of the victim, one of Tony Evers' own attorneys stated that she "believe[d] there is substantial reason to believe that Mrs. Yoerger did engage in the behavior [victim] and his friends allege."¹⁶ The DPI attorney went on to state "there is enough evidence

to prove that Mrs. Yoerger engaged in “immoral conduct” and that she was “concerned about [Yoerger] being in the educational system and feel strongly about pursuing revocation.”¹⁷

4. “Yet another teacher was caught with his pants down in the classroom.”

On April 14, 2017, the Bloomer School District notified Dr. Scott Jones, Special Assistant to DPI Superintendent Tony Evers, of serious allegations of misconduct against teacher Ron Thompson and requested his license be revoked for engaging in immoral conduct.¹⁸ During a district investigation, it was revealed that another teacher had once found Thompson in a classroom with his pants down.¹⁹ In a written statement, the teacher describes a time when she walked into a classroom and found Thompson with his back to the door and pants completely undone while the door was propped fully open.²⁰ The investigation further revealed that Thompson had asked special education students to view porn on their cell phones, made sexually explicit comments about female high school students, and left students unsupervised so he could leave school to go drink.²¹

As a result of the investigation, Thompson’s services with the Bloomer School District were immediately terminated and, in a follow up letter to DPI, the district administrator stated, “it is the opinion of the administration of this district that Mr. Thompson should not be allowed to work in schools across our state.”²²

5. “State Superintendent Tony Evers had the power to revoke their licenses, but he refused.”

The State of Wisconsin has a well-established public policy commitment to protect our children from teachers who endanger their health, safety, welfare, or education. As Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Evers is empowered and expected under Wisconsin law to uphold this commitment and revoke the license of any teacher who endangers our students by engaging in immoral conduct – a power vested solely in Evers.²³

Wisconsin law defines “immoral conduct” as “conduct or behavior that is contrary to commonly accepted moral or ethical standard and that endangers the health, safety, welfare or education of any pupil.”²⁴ These cases tell the story of teachers who spread pornography at school, made sexually explicit comments about the bodies of female students under their care, tried to lure a high school student into a sexual relationship, and even one who was caught with his pants down in the classroom. It is clearly within reason to construe such behavior as both dangerous and contrary to “commonly accepted moral and ethical behavior” of an educator. Per the Department of Public Instruction’s own standards, teachers are to conduct themselves with integrity and in an ethical manner in order to support pupil well-being, and are to continually evaluate the effects of his or her choices and actions on pupils, their parents, and others in the learning community.²⁵

School officials, fellow teachers, and parents – individuals most closely associated and familiar with these teachers – all found their behavior to be immoral and egregious enough to endanger the welfare and safety of the very students under their care. In each of these cases, school districts referred the teachers to Evers’ agency for license revocation and in each case, Evers refused to act.

For more information:

Visit TonyEversforGovernor.org to learn more about Evers' failure to stand up for Wisconsin families and keep our children safe.

Sources:

¹ [Kittle, M.D. \(2014, Jan 23\). Official: Wisconsin DPI dragging feet on porn-watching case.](#)

² *See Id.*

³ [Governor Walker letter to Superintendent Evers dated January 28, 2014.](#) *See also supra* note 1.

⁴ *See* [Bader, J. \(Aug. 7, 2018\). More Licensing Revocation Questions for Evers' DPI](#)

⁵ [Bloomer School District Investigation File for Ron Thompson dated April 22, 2017.](#)

⁶ [Middleton Cross-Plains School District Summary Report of Findings Regarding Technology Use Complaint dated February 8, 2010.](#)

⁷ *See Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *See* [Brief of Respondents-Appellants at 8, Middleton Education Association v. Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, 838 N.W.2d 137 \(2013\).](#) *See also supra* note 6.

¹⁰ [License Review Referral of Dayleen Yoerger dated Jan. 20, 2015.](#)

¹¹ *See* [Beloit Turner District Case File for Dayleen Yoerger at 5.](#)

¹² *See* [Student Statement dated January 9, 2015 \(Beloit Turner District Findings at 28 & 31\).](#) *See also* [Beloit PD incident report at 3-4.](#)

¹³ *See* [Student Statement dated January 9, 2015 \(Beloit Turner District Findings at 28 & 31\)](#)

¹⁴ [Student Statements dated January 13, 2015. \(Beloit Turner District Findings at 27-32\).](#) *See also* [Beloit PD incident report at 4.](#)

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ [DPI letter to victim parents dated October 7, 2015.](#)

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ [Bloomer District Administrator email to DPI Scott Jones dated April 14, 2017 \(Bloomer District Investigation File, Exhibit 7\)](#)

¹⁹ *See* [Bloomer District Investigation File, Exhibit 3.](#)

²⁰ *See* [Bloomer District Investigation File, Exhibit 3.](#)

²¹ *See* [Bader, J. \(Aug. 7, 2018\). More Licensing Revocation Questions for Evers' DPI.](#) *See also* [Bloomer District Investigation Files, Exhibit 6.](#)

²² *See Supra* note 5.

²³ *See* Wis. Stat. § 115.31(2)

²⁴ Wis. Stat. § 115.31(1)(c)

²⁵ *See* [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction teacher Standards](#)