

An open apology to my school community:

Over the past year, as Middle School Principal, I have appreciated and enjoyed the trust of the community in my ongoing leadership. As I reflect on what occurred over the past year, I want to acknowledge that I made serious mistakes and violated that community trust.

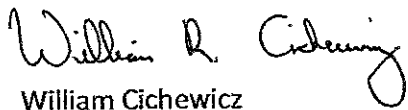
In my role as Principal, I had access to booster funds that were acquired from the school store. Over a period of months, as I collected and took those funds to the bank, I was tempted by the money that was available and I began to take some each time. Ultimately, I acquired and used \$1350 dollars of booster money to benefit myself. My family knew absolutely nothing about what I was doing, and my actions should in no way be attributed to them.

When confronted, I not only felt horrible about what I did, I also felt a sense of relief. Secrets such as these ate away at me as a person and as a leader. I felt guilt over what I was doing and my own violation of a moral code to which I normally adhere. I was trapped in the deceit that comes with breaking the trust of so many who looked up to me.

While I am leaving my position with the school, I plan to return the funds that were taken from the boosters immediately. I appreciate the opportunity that I have been given to make this restitution. When trust is broken, words are less important and actions over time are needed to restore a sense of credibility and respect. When I talk about respect, I mean both self-respect and the respect that is earned from others. It is my goal to engage with people in a way that demonstrates that lessons have been learned and behaviors have changed.

In closing, once again, I apologize to the community, my staff and students, and to the many that looked up to me as a leader. I apologize to the superintendent and board who entrusted me with this important assignment. I sincerely hope that my future can be defined not by this personal and professional failure, but by my response to the failure in the days ahead.

Sincerely,


William Cichewicz