

The accusation against me by a local family has been thoroughly investigated by the Poway Unified School District and PUSD has taken, what it believes, is appropriate action. There was never an accusation of any inappropriate physical contact with any student past or present. No evidence of any physical contact was uncovered during the extensive investigation.

As teachers we are constantly told that we must build relationships with our students. We are told we must “reach them before we can teach them”. My efforts to build strong positive relationships has been turned into an accusation of “grooming”. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am proud of the long history I have of building relationships with my students. I’m both sad and angry at how my efforts have been twisted into something so ugly and so completely against what I believe in and who I am.

My site administration and front office people have been constantly harassed with request for comments, demands for my termination, and accusation of hiring child molesters. Near as I can tell, most of these demands are being made by people with no connection to my school.

I’ve been harassed and demonized in social media; demands for resignation, accusations of “grooming”, and threats of retaliation. One commentor has taken to labeling me a “potential pedophile”. I’m not sure what that means. I have a friend that is a pharmacist. Is she a “potential drug addict”? What about the fireman that lives down the street; a “potential arsonists”?

News media has connected by name to teachers in the county that have been **accused and convicted** of inappropriate physical relationships with their students. Placing my name next to actual convicted pedophiles makes for a false misleading connection. Such a connection only serves to continue this nightmare I’m living.

An accusation should not be an automatic guilty verdict. Basically, social media and news media have tried, convicted and is now demanding punishment. There has been no regard for our standard of presumed innocence.

Tim Medlock