

**GRAND THEFT/EMBEZZLEMENT OF MONIES AND  
PROPERTY INVESTIGATION**  
Redding Police Department Case #09-71191

**SUMMARY**

On 06/04/09, Dave Edwards filed a report with the Redding Police Department alleging suspected misuse of public funds by the Sycamore Elementary School Librarian and School Parent Faculty Club Treasurer Wanell STOLZ and possibly her husband Rein STOLZ.

Edwards had previously submitted a letter to District Attorney Gerald Benito dated May 15, 2009 stating he had received information from an employee of the Redding School District regarding Redding School District Board President Rein STOLZ receiving several checks written on the Sycamore Parent Club account by his wife, Wanell STOLZ. Edwards states in his letter the checks are several in number and were not authorized by anyone in the Parent Club, other than Wanell STOLZ.

On May 19, 2009 District Attorney Benito responded back to Edwards with a letter acknowledging receipt of his letter and telling him he would refer the matter to the Redding Police Department. On 06/04/09 Officer Will Williams took an initial report from Edwards under Redding Police report #09-36135.

Officer Williams also made contact with Sycamore Elementary School Principal Lana Rylee inquiring about the school's Parent Club and the alleged suspect, Wanell STOLZ. The case was then sent over to the Investigations Division where it was initially assigned to Investigator Eric Little.

Little interviewed Principal Rylee on 07/09/09. During the interview Rylee explained to Investigator Little about the Parent Club and how it operated. She confirmed that Wanell STOLZ was the Treasurer. Little was also told about a suspicious check having been discovered written to Wanell STOLZ husband, Rein STOLZ.

This suspicious check was discovered by the office secretary after she had inadvertently opened a North Valley Bank statement envelope for the Parent Club. It was after reviewing the statement a check from the Parent Club account was discovered to have been written to Rein STOLZ, dated 04/10/09 in the amount of \$136.49 and signed by Wanell STOLZ. The memo portion of the check had the words, "Costco receipts reimbursement." Rylee told Investigator Little that was the only check she knew of at that time to have been written to Rein STOLZ from the Parent Club account.

Rylee then told Investigator Little about another incident involving Wanell STOLZ and her husband regarding an old bookshelf from the school library. Rylee had had a discussion with Wanell STOLZ regarding this old bookshelf. New bookshelves were

being purchased, however Rylee said it was never discussed with Wanell STOLZ as what was going to be done with the old bookshelf. Wanell STOLZ had assumed the old bookshelf had been purchased years ago by the Parent Faculty Club and thus was going to sell it and put the monies from the sale of the bookshelf into the Parent Faculty Club account.

It wasn't clear that the old bookshelf was in fact purchased by the Parent Faculty Club or perhaps by the school district which would make it district property.

Wanell and her husband had loaded up the old bookshelf in his truck and were going to take it to his business to store it because Wanell said there was no room at the school. Eventually the Redding School District Superintendent, Diane Kempley wanted to know if the STOLZ' had gone through the proper discard procedures for the old bookshelf.

It was later found out that Wanell STOLZ had put the old bookshelf on Craig's List and had sold it to another school for \$100. The money was deposited into the school Parent Faculty Club account, however Wanell STOLZ did not follow proper discard procedure and it was not known whether or not the money from the sale of the old bookshelf should have been deposited into the district account because it was never confirmed the bookshelf was originally purchased by the Parent Faculty Club. This incident was handled internally through the district office.

Investigator Little then followed up on the suspicious check Wanell STOLZ had written to her husband, Rein STOLZ. He contacted Costco and obtained the receipt of the items purchased for \$136.49. Upon looking at the items purchased it could not be determined whether or not all of them were for a legitimate school purpose. Investigator Little was going to conduct further investigation into the matter to determine if Wanell STOLZ had simply violated school and district policies or if she had misappropriated funds and property.

On 10/26/09 Margaret Bonsey contacted the Redding Police Department regarding a suspected theft of monies and property from Wanell STOLZ, the now former Treasurer of the Sycamore School Parent Faculty Club. Officer Kinneavy met and spoke with Bonsey. Bonsey told Officer Kinneavy she had recently taken over the position of Treasurer for the Sycamore Parent Faculty Club from Wanell STOLZ.

Bonsey said while auditing the books for the Parent Faculty Club she discovered that Wanell STOLZ had written several Parent Faculty Club checks to her husband, Rein STOLZ. She said several checks were unaccounted for and she had to contact the bank in order to obtain copies of them.

Along with monies being unaccounted for, Bonsey also reported that several items such as a digital and video camera were also missing. Bonsey provided Officer Kinneavy paperwork showing what she had found during her audit. Officer Kinneavy's report was sent over to the Investigations Division to Investigator Little for further follow-up.

One day in January 2010, Officer Landreth who was assigned as a School Resource Officer spoke with Principal Lana Rylee while visiting Sycamore School. During their conversation Rylee advised Officer Landreth about the Parent Faculty Club Board having possibly discovered a theft of monies from the club's bank account by the former Treasurer, Wanell STOLZ who is also the school's Librarian.

Officer Landreth later contacted Investigator Little about what he had heard. Officer Landreth started conducting his own follow-up to assist Little in the investigation. It was also believed at that time Wanell STOLZ had purchased some books for her own personal use using Parent Faculty Club monies. Officer Landreth was able to obtain a list of books, tapes and other items located in the library. It was determined at that time that several of the books were not in the library. Out of 120 plus books, tapes and property listed, only 36 of them could be located in the library.

In March 2010 this investigation was reassigned to me. On 03/10/10 I met with Sycamore Parent Faculty Club Treasurer Margaret Bonsey and Principal Lana Rylee. Bonsey told me she was nominated for Treasurer of the Parent Faculty Club on 09/21/09 and was approved by a vote of the people present during the meeting and thus became Treasurer.

I learned that former Treasurer Wanell STOLZ had been Treasurer since around 2004. According to the By-Laws governing the club, the duties of the Treasurer are as follows: The Treasurer shall handle all incoming and outgoing monies, sign money drafts, and give a financial report at Board and General Meetings or upon request by a board member. Prepare an annual report of all monies held by The Parent Club and have the books of transactions (computer generated or long hand) available for audit at anytime. The Treasurer will monitor discretionary spending of up to \$100.00 for expenses incurred in the interim period between club meetings for operating expenses. Such expenditures shall require a majority vote by the executive board.

Bonsey said after being appointed Treasurer she had sent Wanell STOLZ an e-mail asking her for the books and financials for the club. Bonsey said while at school one day, Principal Rylee had introduced her to Wanell STOLZ. It was during that introduction that Bonsey said STOLZ told her that the books for the Parent Faculty Club were in order and that she would have no problems in taking over as the Treasurer.

Bonsey said she again asked STOLZ for the books and financials so she could get started. In October 2009, Bonsey said she had met STOLZ in the school library for the sole purpose of picking up the books and financials for the Parent Faculty Club. STOLZ handed over to Bonsey two plastic tubs filled with numerous miscellaneous receipts, bank statements, a Quicken file disk and other various items.

When Bonsey opened up the Quicken file disk she discovered it did not have all of the Parent Faculty Club financial reports. She said she knew STOLZ had them as Bonsey had previously seen them with Parent Faculty Club tax returns. She also discovered on this same disk some personal banking information belonging to a Rob and April Milovich.



Bonsey was unsure as to why their financial information would be on a disk having Parent Faculty Club financial information.

As Bonsey started going through the items she discovered that STOLZ had just thrown everything in the two tubs and that nothing was in logical order and the file folders did not contain what the labels indicated. Bonsey had later asked STOLZ for the remaining documentation, however was told that her computer crashed and the information was lost.

Bonsey said once she started going through the information she discovered a large number of Parent Faculty Club checks had been written to Wanell STOLZ and her husband, Rein STOLZ. These checks concerned her as they were for reimbursement for items purchased by Wanell STOLZ for the school.

Bonsey said Wanell STOLZ would write down on each check and check stub why the check was being written. She said what concerned her was the fact that there was little or no documentation for the dollar amount of each check written to her husband, Rein STOLZ for alleged reimbursement.

Bonsey was able to obtain all of the checks written from the Parent Faculty Club from North Valley Bank which is where the account is held. She noticed on the backs of the checks the endorsed signature of Rein STOLZ along with an account number. She said in trying to resurrect the accounting for the Parent Faculty Club from the information Wanell STOLZ provided her, she found where Wanell had written her husband numerous checks and reimbursed her husband monies for more than she should have.

Bonsey saw where Wanell STOLZ had used her own personal checks, debit and or credit card(s) to pay for items allegedly associated with school functions. She told me it's not common practice for a Parent Faculty Club or any club for that matter to have their Treasurer use their own personal checks, debit and or credit card to make purchases then have that same Treasurer reimburse themselves' later with a check from that club, without approval first and documentation.

Bonsey said that is why the Parent Faculty Club has checks to be able to get prior approval before making purchases and to avoid any money discrepancy problems just like what she had discovered.

One such check was for a school fundraiser involving See's Candy where Wanell STOLZ over reimbursed her husband by \$702.14. Bonsey was able to obtain the invoice from See's Candy for the actual dollar amount of the candy ordered. Wanell STOLZ later reimbursed her husband with a Parent Faculty Club check for \$702.14 over what the invoice order stated. It was also discovered that Wanell STOLZ had used her personal credit card to pay the invoice. Upon checking her credit card statement, Wanell STOLZ paid the exact amount of only what the invoice order stated was the total dollar amount owed.

Wanell STOLZ had also written on the reimbursement check and check stub the amount of money she was reimbursing her husband for the See's Candy order which was \$702.14 over what the actual invoice was for. No other documentation, receipts or notes were found as to why Wanell reimbursed her husband over and above the actual invoice amount.

In October 2009 Principal Rylee while showing the school facilities director and an energy auditor the library in regards to energy usage around campus, discovered hundreds of new books, some purchased as far back as 2001, along with other books which had been checked out by students and not returned to the shelves and old donated books in cupboards in the library.

During the tour of the library, Wanell STOLZ had walked in and saw what was going on. The following month in mid November, STOLZ took a leave of absence for unknown reasons.

Rylee said it wasn't until January 2010 that a more extensive inventory was done of the library that additional brand new books in boxes were discovered in the closet along with several hundred other books. It was through this inventory that it was discovered that several of the books which Wanell STOLZ claimed to have purchased for the school could not be located in the library. It is believed Wanell STOLZ purchased these books for her own personal use and then reimbursed herself or her husband through Parent Faculty Club monies by writing checks.

The Parent Faculty Club had also purchased a digital and video camera for use by the school. STOLZ kept the cameras in the library. In September of the 2009 school year a teacher had requested to use one the cameras and was told it wasn't available. Only after STOLZ was asked about the camera did she in an e-mail to district headquarters report the camera, camera bag along with her own personal camera being "taken" out of the library sometime on the last day of school activities back in June 2009. She also wrote in her e-mail, "I don't think they will be returned."

Up until the time the camera was being requested for use, STOLZ never said anything about the camera being taken or missing. She never told any school personnel including her supervisor, nor did she report it to the police after she discovered it along with her own personal camera missing approximately three months earlier. A search warrant will be executed at the STOLZ residence looking for items belonging and associated to the school and Parent Faculty Club.

Additionally, Wanell STOLZ purchased at different times, two of the same type of printer, one for the school library and one for her own personal use at home. When Bonsey was looking at the amount of ink STOLZ allegedly bought for the school's use then reimbursed her husband for it with Parent Faculty Club monies, was described as an excessive amount of ink cartridges for just the library printer and for Parent Faculty Club functions.

A calculation was done in determining the approximate number of pages that could be printed by the number of ink cartridges purchased by STOLZ allegedly for the school's use. After doing this it was said that the school or Parent Faculty Club would not have used the amount of ink purchased by STOLZ which would have printed close to 3,000 pages.

The extra ink purchased and reimbursed with Parent Faculty Club monies may have been used by STOLZ for her own personal use at her residence since she had also bought the exact same printer.

It was uncertain as to why STOLZ had even purchased a printer for the library when she had access to the school's printer. The library had not had a printer in years past and functioned fine using the school's printer when needing things printed out for school events or Parent Faculty Club functions.

Bonsey had also discovered where certain fundraisers had a significant lower amount of cash raised than in previous years. It appears Wanell STOLZ under reported the amount of monies raised for these fundraisers and was suspected of skimming some of the cash.

On May 21, 2010 Wanell and her husband Rein STOLZ were allowed by Redding School District Human Resources Director, Kathy KUHN and witnessed by several people at Sycamore School to load up various boxes and items out of the school library into the back of Rein STOLZ'S pick-up truck. Wanell STOLZ claimed the items were her own personal items and that she had purchased them.

Some of the items taken were several unknown books, file cabinet and other property. One specific item removed that had been previously paid for by the Parent Faculty Club was a wooden green doomed treasure chest used to put various prize type items in that the students could purchase.

After Wanell and her husband left, Bonsey and others on that same day came back and checked the library with their list of books that should have been in the library which the Parent Faculty Club purchased. As they went through the books they discovered several were missing. These books had previously been in the library prior to Wanell and her husband being allowed to remove things earlier that day on May 21, 2010.

All of these areas mentioned along with suspected property belonging to the school and Parent Faculty Club totaled the embezzled monies and property to come to approximately \$13,384.88. There are approximately 80+ checks in which S/STOLZ had reimbursed herself and her husband. Binders containing all of the documentation and a summary report of Bonsey's findings are a part of this overall report.