

January 23rd, 2020

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To Whom It May Concern:

The following is a statement of facts—including a timeline of events and pictures that document said events—regarding the unethical behaviors of Melony Bell-R, HD56 that transpired on January 21st through the morning of January 23rd.

During a public meeting of the House PreK-12 Innovation subcommittee on January 21st, while examining HJR157, Rep Bell said the following:

“I’m a believer in Home Rule...but we have a school board member in Polk County, and I’ll go on record, *who most likely needs to be removed and the governor has not removed him* (emphasis mine)...Time after time, he just disrupts the whole School Board and teachers and the association. With term limits, I could see, this is probably going to be the only way to remove him from office.”

The “school board member in Polk County” is duly elected Billy Townsend, District 1. It seems both unethical and downright undemocratic for a sitting state legislator to call for the removal of another elected official from office simply because of a difference of views. Mr. Townsend has done nothing wrong and has the support of thousands of citizens all over Polk, both from within the confines of the education establishment and beyond.

This is a summary of the first charge of unethical behavior; it amounts to falsehoods being spread by Representative Bell, potentially undermines the democratic rights and votes of the 140,000+ citizens who elected Mr. Townsend, and could be considered slanderous and defamation of character, both of which go beyond the purview of ethics and are, in fact, illegal.

The second charge of unethical behavior stems from how I was censored on social media. As noted in the *Washington Post* article that is included beneath this opening statement, you will read about numerous court cases from across the country concerning elected officials who operate on social media and that, by providing a public forum, cannot censor dissenting viewpoints, which is exactly what happened to me when I expressed my dismay at her comments about Mr. Townsend. In the following pages, I have included evidence of said censorship, and I hope that you take all due action to deliberate this matter and censure Representative Bell for her careless and slanderous remarks, as well as to ensure that she no longer censors other dissenting viewpoints from appearing on her Facebook page or any other social media platform she may use as an elected official.

Please continue to the next page for the timeline with photos and explanatory captions.

First comment: On January 22nd, after reading about Representative Bell's comments and watching the video footage from the Florida Channel, I posted this comment on her most recent Facebook post. As you can see from the time-date stamp, this was at 4:54 pm on the same day (I have other records to verify this timeline if necessary).



Second comment: Two minutes later, I commented again at 4:56, this time sharing a link to the most recent episode of the podcast *Teacher Voice*, which featured Mr. Townsend sharing his views about the current state of education here in Florida. **NB: please turn your attention to the middle of the picture; you will see the options to Like, Comment, or Share. They will be gone the following morning after I was blocked from the page.**

4:56 ↖ 📶 LTE 🔋

←  **Melony Bell State Representative**
District 56 ⋮
Yesterday at 10:33 AM · 🌐



👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

👍❤️ 122

2 shares

Most Relevant ▾

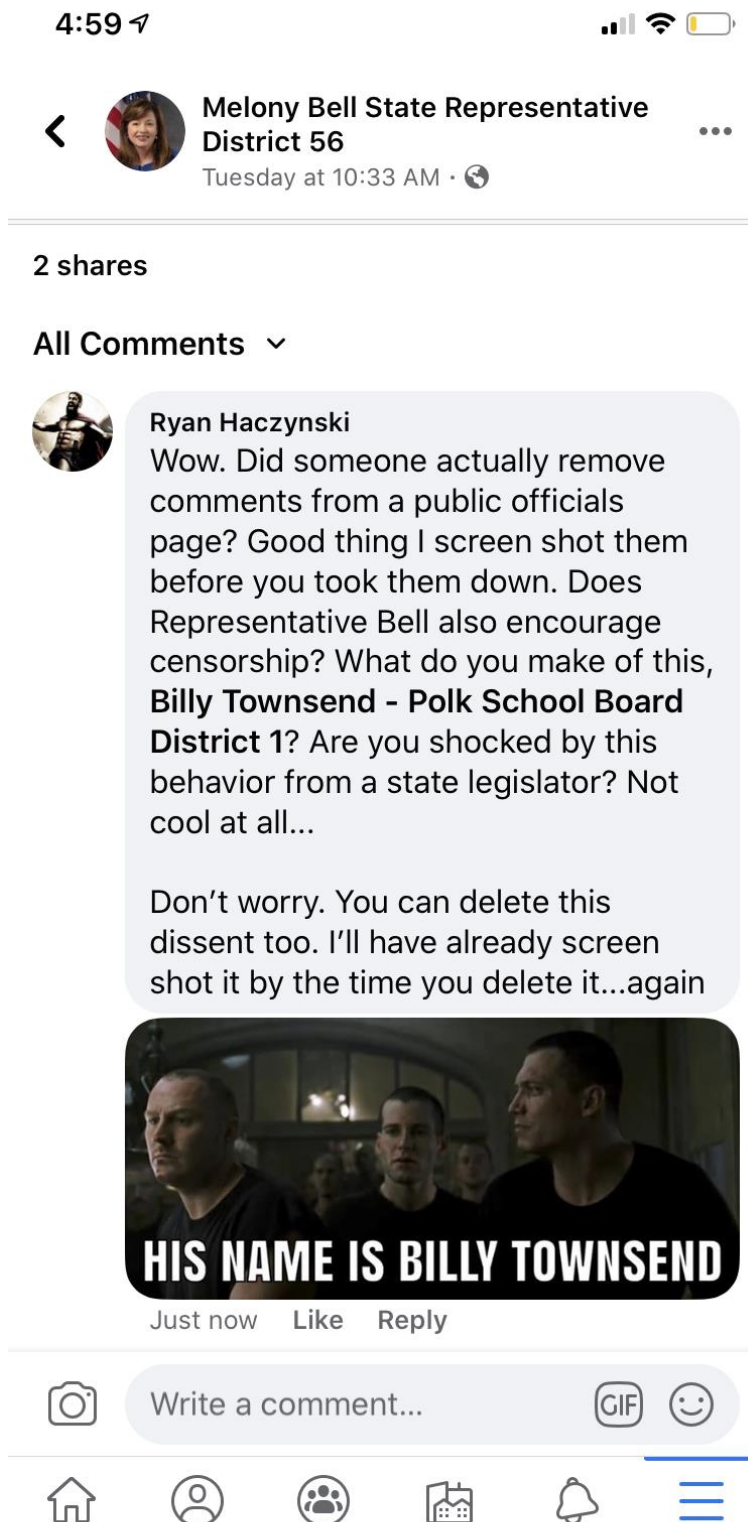
 **Ryan Haczynski**
Here's an important conversation we had if you'd like to be more informed of the issues affecting our students and profession.
<https://teacher-voice.com/2020/01...>

 **Teacher Voice – Episode 53: Billy Townsend and the #Rally...**
teacher-voice.com

 Write a comment... GIF 😊

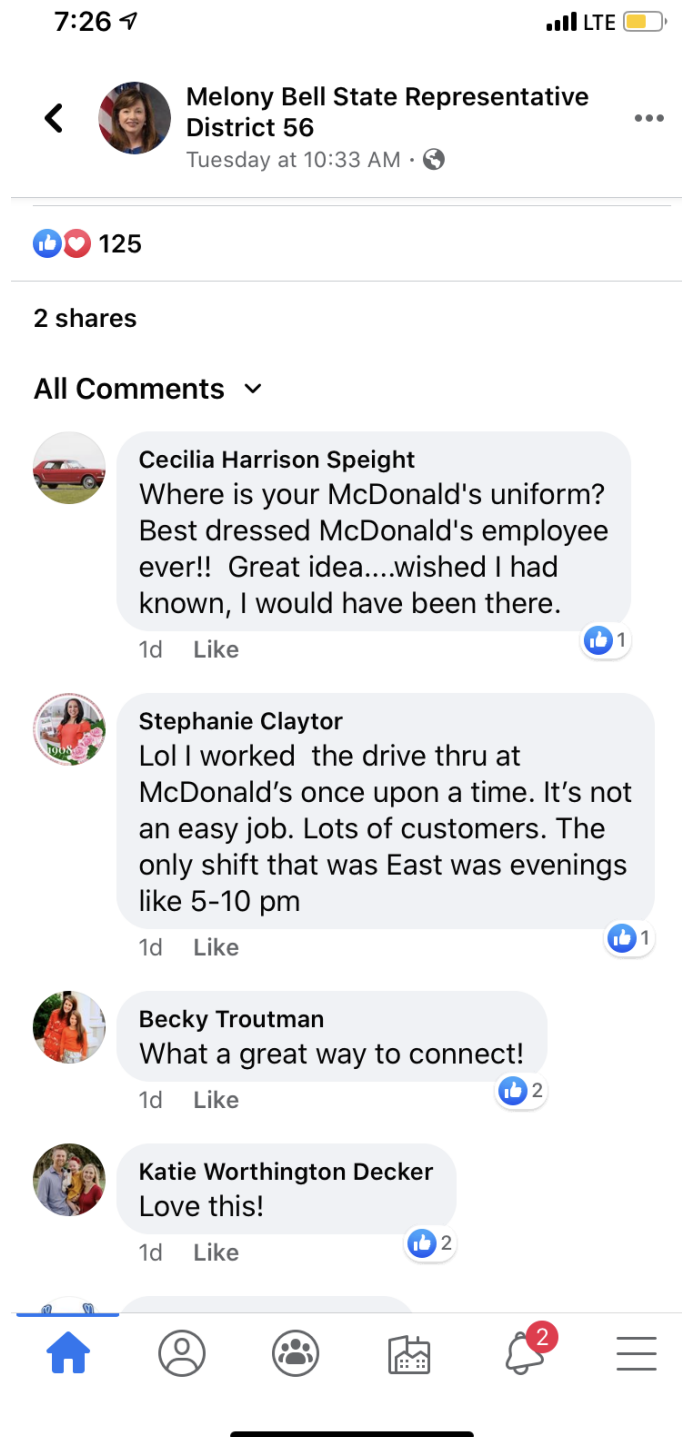
Third Comment: 4:59 am this morning (January 23rd). Curious to see if there was any response, I was shocked to discover that my comments had been deleted by Representative Bell or her campaign manager (both are listed on the page www.facebook.com/VoteMelonyBell)



Fourth check: at 7:26 am on January 23rd, I went back to see if there had been a response to my comment about the deletion of previous comments, and that too had been removed and I had been blocked from further comment or reactions on Facebook. **NB: see the middle of this picture and note how, unlike the picture on page 3 the previous day, the only option available is to “Share”.** Also of note, you will notice that it lists 11 comments total, but on the following two screen shots there are only a total of 10 comments, meaning Representative Bell or her Campaign Manager (both administer the page) chose to “hide” the comment rather than delete it altogether. To me, this is an unstated admission of guilt for being called out for completely deleting the first two comments from the previous day.



This is the full list of "All Comments" after my third and final comment had been hidden. You can see the total comments in the picture above number 11, not 10. These are comments 1-4.



Comments 6-10. Where is the comment I posted about the deletion just before 5 am?

7:26  LTE 

  **Melony Bell State Representative
District 56** 
Tuesday at 10:33 AM 

 **Yadira Pulido Holmes**
Love, love, love! 😊
1d Like  2

 **Nancy Kendrick**
😂😍😍😍 love it.....
1d Like  2

 **Cheryl Knighten Arrington**
Way to go!
1d Like  2

 **Mary Ann Burns Harrell**
Was the ice cream machine working?
1d Like   2

 **Tony Murray**
Was that you that forgot my cheese?
1d Like  2

 **Zenaida Brown**

1d Like  1

Final screen shot from 7:26 am; the first screen shot was at 7:45 (on page 5)

7:26 ↖

📶 LTE 🔋

⬅️  **Melony Bell State Representative
District 56** ⋮
Tuesday at 10:33 AM · 🌐

I had the honor to serve breakfast to my constituents at the Bartow McDonald's!! I was amazed at the dedication of all the employees!! Along with serving breakfast, I was able to learn more about their automated equipment, to better serve customers!!

#McDonalds
#Bartow
#District56
#WouldYouLikeFriesWithThat



➦ Share

