

Bible Baptist School teacher fired amid sexual abuse allegations from students

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A teacher at the Bible Baptist School in Shiremanstown has been fired and is under investigation for alleged child abuse.

The man, who will not be identified as formal charges have yet to be filed, was fired on Sept. 7 amid allegations that he had sexual contact with a 17-year-old student.

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Cumberland County District Attorney David Freed and the Shiremanstown Police Department today released a statement Friday saying that the inve... [Read more](#)

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by Detective Les Feeling with the Cumberland County Criminal Investigation Division, the investigation was initiated after concerned parents approached the school about the possible abuse, which was then brought to law enforcement by school administration.

The man was suspended from the school after being confronted with the charges and later fired.

According to a court document, on Sept. 7 at 5:43 p.m., Shiremanstown Police were summoned to the Bible Baptist Church in reference to the possible abuse. The document states that the school was approached by two concerned parents who provided 19 pages of text, instant message and email printouts between their 17-year-old son and the 57-year-old New Cumberland minister, which contains pages of inappropriate language between a teacher and a student.

The document states that in the opinion of the filing officer, the statements are what is termed as "grooming" behavior and language.

Some of the text included statements such as, "If you feel like running away tonight ... come this direction!!!" and "can't wait to see you in those boxers!"

The affidavit also states that the man made numerous mentions of "loving" the boy and told him to delete their communications.

Earlier in the day, at 4 p.m., school officials confronted the man who initially denied the allegations, but when confronted with the communications provided by the parents, admitted that he sent them. He apologized, but denied any sexual contact, according to the affidavit.

The man was then suspended and sent home. He was fired the following Monday, Sept. 10.

The document also states that during interviews with the child, the student admitted that when he was 15 years old, he and the man were alone together in the music room at the school and the man asked him to pull down his pants to show him his genitals. He said the man fondled him on that

occasion. He also told police that when he was 17, another student told him that the man had hugged him and he "felt uncomfortable."

The boy then also told police that the man would give massages to other boys when they were alone with him, according to court documents. The boy told police that many of the emails and messages he received were late at night, between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m.

A search warrant was issued and served on Saturday, and police officials worked throughout the weekend collecting evidence. A second search warrant was issued and served on Tuesday.

County detectives also met with school officials Monday and interviewed the 17-year-old boy mentioned by the other student.

The second search warrant states that this boy told police that the man had placed his hand on his genital area over the clothes two to three times beginning in February. He also told police that he would attend counseling sessions with the man, and they would discuss many topics, including masturbation, and told police during one of those sessions the man told him "Why don't you pull it out and masturbate?"

School officials then gave consent to law enforcement to view the rooms and office of the man, and police noticed several greeting cards, photographs, letters and other correspondence from past and present students within the office.

The search warrant was issued and conducted on Tuesday, and items collected included letters, pictures, folders, a massager and other notes, according to the document.

School officials issued a prepared statement that said, "As advocates for children and their education, the BBS community is deeply saddened that a former employee is under investigation by the Cumberland County district attorney and the Shiremanstown police department. Our first thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted. We are fully cooperating with law enforcement, and would ask that questions be directed to the district attorney's office due to the ongoing investigation."

Messages with the District Attorney's Office and Shiremanstown Police Department were not returned on Thursday.

Posted earlier on Cumberlink:

A teacher at the Bible Baptist School in Shiremanstown has been fired and is under investigation for alleged child abuse of two students at the school.

The man, who will not be identified as formal charges have yet to be filed, was suspended on Sept. 7 and fired on Monday amid allegations that he had sexual contact with students.

According to police, the investigation was initiated after concerned parents approached law enforcement about the possible abuse, and the man was let go from the school after being confronted with the charges.

Shiremanstown police were summoned to the school in reference to possible child abuse, and when speaking to the assistant principal, he said that the administration was approached by two concerned parents. The parents provided them with about 19 pages of texts, instant messages and email printouts between their 17-year-old son and the teacher, according to the first of two search warrants against the teacher.

The emails provided by the parents contained pages of inappropriate language between a teacher and a student and contained what police termed as "grooming" behavior and language, according to the search warrant, which was executed on Sept. 8.

Some of the examples include:

Aug. 28: "...if you feel like running away tonight...come this direction!!!! :) I am so bad..."

Aug. 30: "Hey Sunshine – Don't know where you are...but I am FREE-just taught my last lesson...it's #;#O right now..."

Aug. 31: "...wow thank you (victim's name)...you made my ENTIRE year...oh I DO love you buddy...yes...I am so looking forward to our days together...I'll always be there for you buddy...God loves you so...and so do !!!!"

Sept. 2: "...can't wait to see you in those boxers!!! Wwowsers!!!"

The teacher also mentioned in a text to the student that "you will delete this whole thing...right?"

School officials confronted the teacher, who denied any inappropriate communication with the student, but did admit that he sent the messages, according to the search warrant. The teacher apologized, but denied any sexual content. He was then suspended and sent home on Sept. 7.

Police then contacted the parents and the student, and the student admitted that when he was 15 years old, he and the teacher were alone in the music room together, the court document said. At that time, the teacher asked him to pull down his pants, and when he did so, the teacher looked at his genitals closely and fondled him, according to the search warrant.

The student also said that he heard from another student (who is now the second alleged case) that he was hugged by the teacher and "felt uncomfortable," the court document said. The first student also said that the teacher would give massages to other boys when they were alone with him in the music room.

A second search warrant was executed on Tuesday, and in that, the other 17-year-old boy, who talked to the first student earlier in the year, was interviewed by police and said that he was also fondled by the teacher, according to ABC27.

"As advocates for children and their education, the BBS community is deeply saddened that a former employee is under investigation by the Cumberland County district attorney and the Shiremanstown police department," said the school in a prepared statement. "Our first thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted. We are fully cooperating with law enforcement, and would ask that questions be directed to the district attorney's office due to the ongoing investigation."

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According to police, the investigation was initiated after concerned parents approached law enforcement about the possible abuse, and the man was let go from the school after being confronted with the charges.

A search warrant was executed Sept. 8 after parents of one 17-year-old student showed police text messages, emails and instant messages sent from the teacher. The student then said that the teacher fondled him in the music room.

A second search warrant was executed on Tuesday, and in that, another 17-year-old was interviewed by police and said that he was also fondled by the teacher, according to ABC27.

"As advocates for children and their education, the BBS community is deeply saddened that a former employee is under investigation by the Cumberland County district attorney and the Shiremanstown police department," said the school in a prepared statement. "Our first thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted. We are fully cooperating with law enforcement, and would ask that questions be directed to the district attorney's office due to the ongoing investigation."

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