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[www.stamfordpublicschools.org](http://www.stamfordpublicschools.org)

Winifred Hamilton, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

To: **Members, Board of Education**

From: **Dr. Winifred Hamilton**

Re: **Evaluation Process Update: Response from ProTraxx**

Date: **December 5, 2013**

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Attached is the letter sent from David M. Daniels, the President of ProTraxx. It was sent as his official response to the criticism of his company by representatives of the SEA in the Stamford Advocate on November 29, 2013.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Michael Arcano.



December 4, 2013

Dr. Winifred Hamilton  
Superintendent of Schools  
Stamford Public Schools  
888 Washington Boulevard  
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Dr. Hamilton,

I am writing to address the article referencing ProTraxx's relationship with Stamford Public Schools that appeared in the November 29, 2013 issue of the "Connecticut Post". First of all, we must register our deep concern with the harmful, unsubstantiated allegations that appeared in the article, attributed to comments made by representatives of the Stamford Education Association. Specifically, the claims that the "ProTrax (sp) system does not reflect Stamford's evaluation" and that "teachers have reported spending hours plugging in data only to lose it at the last minute" are misrepresentative of the facts and damaging to our reputation throughout Connecticut.

We find it particularly egregious that our company was identified by name on multiple occasions and defamed in the remarks printed in the article, in contrast to the company that is providing the district's new grade and attendance computer program, which was spared the public embarrassment of being specifically named. In reviewing this matter with our attorney, we have become aware that the derogatory statements contained in the published article may well constitute grounds for an action for defamation. Sadly, we find ourselves in a position to consider what further steps are necessary to protect our interests going forward.

In reality, our system is designed with significant flexibility in terms of form, process and data management configuration, which has benefited Stamford as well as the numerous other ProTraxx clients that currently utilize our software platform to implement their particular teacher/administrator plans.

While all these plans follow State guidelines, there is a tremendous diversity of creative, unique approaches to the work that districts employ to achieve the end result. Every ProTraxx client implements and utilizes the software differently to meet their needs. We work closely with district leadership to understand and incorporate the specific requirements of their State-approved plans for teachers and administrators within the software platform itself.



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In Stamford's case, the ProTraxx software configuration emulates the format, processes and data management requirements set forth in the 6-20-13 revision of SPS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION PROGRAM. Our staff collaborated extensively with Stamford team members in the initial set-up and configuration process and have supported numerous requests for features, enhancements and modifications in order to insure that ongoing needs are met. If those who criticize the system (and Stamford's use thereof) have evidence to present that supports the need for reconfiguration going forward, we invite that information to be presented and validated. As previously mentioned, the system provides for significant flexibility, but we are not able to accommodate that which is undefined.

We place great value on our relationship with Stamford Public Schools and will continue to work diligently and responsively to meet your needs. At the same time, we appreciate the support and partnership of Stamford staff members who have participated constructively throughout the implementation process and the efforts undertaken to mitigate the damage caused by the "Connecticut Post" article. We encourage those who publically criticize us to utilize alternatives outside of the news media to pursue meaningful, productive change.

Sincerely,



David M. Daniels  
President  
ProTraxx

