

Jay Belcastro, Superintendent of Schools  
Lake Superior School District #381  
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August 25, 2022

Dear Superintendent Belcastro:

I received your August 18 letter responding to my August 8 inquiry regarding Lake Superior School District #381's relationship(s) with former mayor Chris Swanson. As you know, Chris Swanson has admitted to having been arrested and having served a sentence for the sexual assault on a 5-year-old girl in Silver Bay. According to public accounts by the family, these assaults were repeated over a period of time, and Chris Swanson attempted to keep the victim silent by threatening to hurt her family if she spoke up.

The victim's sister chose to use the word "rape" as being more accurate than the more general term "sexual assault" as, I believe, penetration was involved. There are several Facebook posts made by others who claimed to be victims of Chris Swanson, and at least one news report that references having spoken to an additional victim. One or more of these alleged assaults *may have occurred* after Swanson had completed his probation and when he was no longer a juvenile.

Mr. Swanson has not denied these allegations, nor even acknowledged them. Nor has he acknowledged the continued pain and suffering he continues to cause with his silence and defiant attitude.

***There seems to be a rather defiant and arrogant attitude among those in power in Two Harbors and the Lake Superior School District – as if those holding positions of authority are somehow above being questioned, even on matters of ethics and honesty. I've noticed a certain dismissiveness... as if those concerned with matters of responsibility and accountability are not worthy of their time or concern. Minor annoyances.***

But I digress!

## **Did Chris Swanson Teach Computer & Soccer Classes for Lake Superior School District?**

### **Superintendent Belcastro's letter states:**

**Request: Any data mentioning Mr. Swanson's involvement in the "extension program for soccer and computer instruction (as Pure Driven)".**

**Response: The School District does not have and is unaware of any "extension program" it ever offered in soccer and computer instruction and, therefore, cannot locate any data responsive to your request absent clarification of the data you are seeking.**

### **Our research indicates:**

Lists of courses published in the school district's "Good News" newsletters between 2013 and 2016 include one adult soccer class taught by Chris Swanson and nearly 20 computer and Internet-related

courses with Swanson's company "Pure Driven" listed as instructor (See screenshots). The Sept. 2014 newsletter appears to have been deleted from the district's website.

**Question for Mr. Belcastro:** Can you please explain this seeming contradiction?

The image shows several screenshots of newsletters from a company called "PUREDRIVEN". Each newsletter entry includes a title, a brief description of the course, the instructor's name (usually "Pam DeVos"), the location (e.g., "Computer Lab 1109 - Media Center"), the date and time, and the price (\$10). The newsletters listed are: WORDS WITH FRIENDS, YOUTUBE, SKYPE, BLOGGING, PINTEREST, IPHONES/IPADS TIPS AND TRICKS, and FACEBOOK. A red circle is drawn around the "PUREDRIVEN" logo in each newsletter. Below the screenshots is a black banner with white text that reads: "Superintendent Jay Belcastro's statements that there are no records indicating now-admitted sex offender Chris Swanson worked for Lake Superior School District seem to be contradicted by nearly 20 class descriptions in the District's newsletters." To the right of the banner is the logo for "UnhappyFranchisee.Com".

**Was Chris Swanson Approved & Hired as a Volunteer by Lake Superior School District?**

**Superintendent Jay Belcastro's letter states:**

**Request:** Copies of any meeting minutes and/or other documentation related to the School District's employment of Mr. Swanson.

**Response:** The School District made a diligent search of its records and was not able to locate any evidence that Mr. Swanson was ever employed by the School District in any capacity. Therefore, the School District has no data responsive to your request.

**Our research indicates:**

The minutes for the regular meeting of the School Board of Lake Superior Independent School District No. 381 held on Thursday, February 14, 2013, 6:00 p.m. (attached0 contains the following entry:

**Additions or Corrections to the Consent Agenda:**

**... Approve recommendation to hire Chris Swanson, volunteer NASA & Agate Robotics. (Carried Unanimously)**

**Question for Mr. Belcastro:** I understand that "Chris Swanson" is a common name. Was this the same Chris Swanson recently recalled as mayor, or perhaps a different Chris Swanson?

## APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

### 4.1 Additions or Corrections to the Consent Agenda:

Motion by Babeu, second by Youngberg to approve the consent agenda as follows: **Minutes:** January 10, 2013 Organizational Meeting and January 10, 2013 Regular Meeting. **Personnel:** Approve recommendation to re-hire Jane Roiland, Paraprofessional at Minne; Approve recommendation to hire Sara Preston, LSSD School Nurse; Approve recommendation to hire Chris Swanson, volunteer NASA & Agate Robotics. (Carried Unanimously)



**Superintendent Jay Belcastro's statements that there are no records indicating now-admitted sex offender Chris Swanson worked for Lake Superior School District seem to be contradicted by records posted on the District's website.**  
**UnhappyFranchisee.Com**

## Was Sex Offender Chris Swanson Approved & Hired as Boy's Soccer Coach for Two Harbors High School 2001-2002?

In his letter, Superintendent Jay Belcastro states:

The School District made a diligent search of its records and was not able to locate any evidence that Mr. Swanson was ever employed by the School District in any capacity. Therefore, the School District has no data responsive to your request.

Our research indicates:

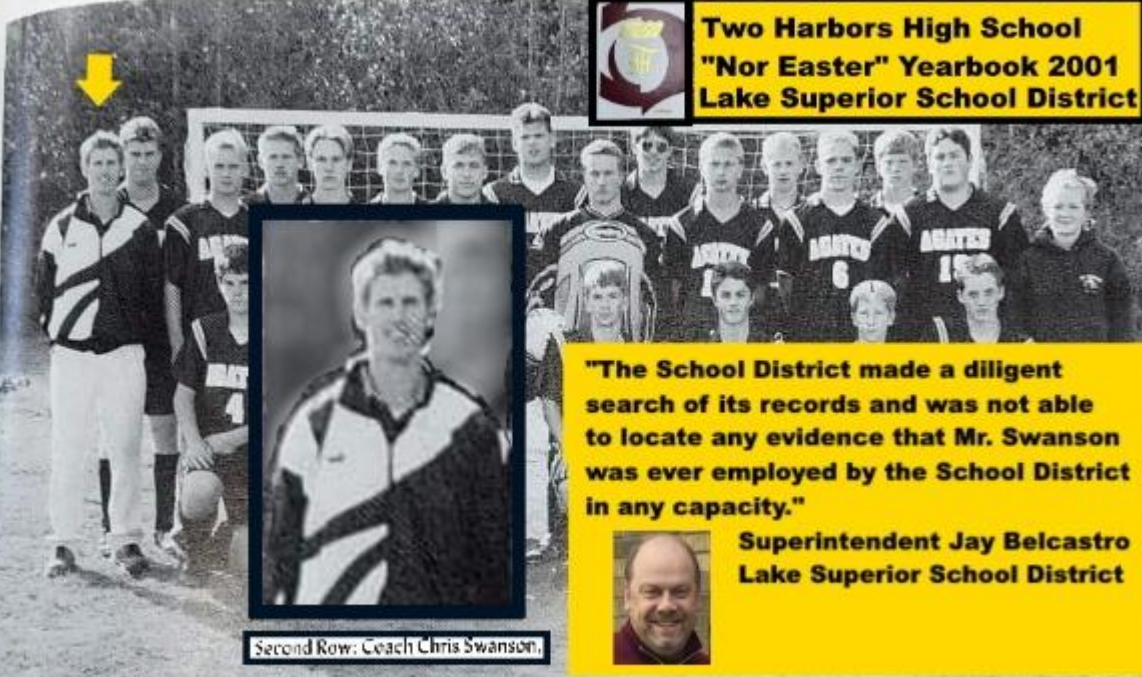
The 2001 Two Harbors High School Yearbook ("Nor Easter") includes a photograph for the Boy's Soccer team that includes a picture of Chris Swanson and the caption "Coach Chris Swanson."

The 2002 Two Harbors High School Yearbook ("Nor Easter") includes a photograph on the page titled "Boys and Girls Soccer" that includes a picture of Chris Swanson and the caption "Coach Chris Swanson."


Swanson would have been around 26 at the time... about ten years after his arrest and less than ten years after his probation period.

Question for Mr. Belcastro: Can you explain this contradiction?


# Boys Soccer



**Two Harbors High School  
"Nor Easter" Yearbook 2001  
Lake Superior School District**



**"The School District made a diligent search of its records and was not able to locate any evidence that Mr. Swanson was ever employed by the School District in any capacity."**




**Superintendent Jay Belcastro  
Lake Superior School District**

Second Row: Coach Chris Swanson.

Front Row: Ben Tietge, Nick Norman, Cody Havlick, Owen Johnson, John Ulrich, Joe Bothwell, Jake Biland, Second Row: Coach Chris Swanson, Ben Peterson, Kyle Miller, Mac Turnquist, Eric Kempffer, Dave Lukkonen, Andy Johnson, Tim Sandvik, Manager Chrissy Pearson, Third Row: Ryan Murphy, Dustin Andrews, Jake Turnquist, Nick Swanson, Ryan Saamanen, Ben Johnson, Sam Nelson.

# Girls & Boys Soccer




**Two Harbors High School  
"Nor Easter" Yearbook 2002  
Lake Superior School District**

**"The School District made a diligent search of its records and was not able to locate any evidence that Mr. Swanson was ever employed by the School District in any capacity."**



**Superintendent Jay Belcastro  
Lake Superior School District**



Coach Chris Swanson

Soccer: Row 1: Matt Knutson, Row 1: Alan Larson, Erik Trygstad, Nick Norman, Zach Eckman, Andy Ortman, Dan Sunday, Dan Fogartis, Row 3: Coach Chris Swanson, Pat Moore, John Ulrich, Jake Dunda, Eric Kempffer, Seth Bissel, Lars Lauritzen, David Lukkonen, Manager Chrissy Pearson, Row 4: Joe Broadbent, Seth Nelson, Justin Norman, Dustin Andrews, Ben Tietge, Tony Bartel, Owen Johnson, Dan Dornfeld, Not Pictured: Josh Mikkelsen, Jeff Adams, Sam Nelson, Joe Bothwell, and Bill Wilson.

## Is the National Civility Association Belcastro Founded With Chris Swanson Still Active?

Shortly after I referenced the National Civility Association website Superintendent Jay Belcastro founded with (now-admitted) sex offender Chris Swanson and Janelle Jones, the website was taken offline.

Earlier this year, the association stopped accepting donations.

**Question for Superintendent Belcastro:** Will Chris Swanson continue to be invited into Lake Superior School District schools as part of the NCA, and to *work shoulder-to-shoulder with students*? Is your National Civility Association still active? Or is it being closed permanently?



## You Charged Me \$1.25 for a Document That I Quoted From in my Initial Letter

In your letter you requested payment of \$1.25 by check or money order for 5 pages of meeting minutes that I clearly already possessed, as I had referenced and quoted from them in my first letter. Here is the excerpt:

Additionally, I am looking for minutes and documents related to issues related to the proposed suspension of Boys Soccer for the 2014/2015 school year mentioned in the attached minutes.

### 7.1 Boys Soccer:

Recommendation to support the Athletic Director's recommendation to suspend Boys Soccer for the 14/15 school year, with intent to re-instate for the following year. **(No Action Taken)**

### 5.0 DELEGATIONS/OPEN FORUM:

#### 5.1 Perkins

#### 5.2 Jerry Carlson

#### 5.3 Chris Swanson – Boys Soccer

Please let me know if you still believe this is a valid charge. If you do, please provide the School District's Venmo or other cash app information as it's my policy not to spend .57 cents on a stamp, envelope, paper check and unnecessary time. I, like most of the country, have left behind that archaic and time-wasting practice for electronic payments.

Your clarifications, corrections, rebuttals are invited and welcome, as always.

Sean Kelly

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**PS a video version of this letter is available here:**

<https://youtu.be/L50sXZCilhs>

Or by searching “Belcastro”

**PPS Related videos referenced above:**

[Mother Confronts Mayor Over Alleged Sexual Assault of 5-Year-Old\\*](#)

<https://www.unhappyfranchisee.com/mother-confronts-mayor-sexual-assault/>

[Silence Is Abuse: Sister of Abuse Survivor Refuses to be Silenced by Cowardly Mayor & City Council\\*](#)

<https://youtu.be/IKpd6zY555o>

***CC Lake Superior School District School Board***

***Attachments:***

***“Good News” Screenshots 2013, 2015, 2016***

***Meeting minutes with approval of Chris Swanson as Volunteer***

***Two Harbors Yearbook Photos of Coach Swanson 2001-2002***