



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISORS OF NEW JERSEY

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S.T.S. Membership

February 9, 2016

This letter is to update you on the status of our legal case against our former treasurer, Richard Costanzo. I apologize for the delay in getting this out to you.

The case was scheduled for sentencing and was called before Judge Kevin T. Smith on Friday January 8, 2016.

Attending the sentencing were myself along with several current and former members of the board of directors.

After waiting a few hours our case was finally called. The Judge read several items, asked several questions and then allowed both parties to make statements to him for his consideration in handing down a sentence.

Mr. Costanzo was the first called and his statement was "I am truly sorry".

The Judge then asked for any statements by the victim. I advised that I would be speaking on behalf of the board and membership. My statement was brief and brought attention that not only did Mr. Costanzo's action threaten the future of the association but it also jeopardized the safety of all school children throughout the state. I reviewed all of the facts we had presented which included the amount taken, the amount of debt we were left with, the legal representation cost we had to pay, the length of time the theft of our accounts had taken place, the fact he forged our past president's signature on checks and documents. I respectfully requested the Judge hand down the sentence as was agreed to in the plea deal, that we felt it was more than fair.

The judge thanked me for the statement and wished the association the best of luck in staying in operation to continue the valued service we provide to the children of the state.

After reviewing the mitigating and aggravating circumstances in the case the Judge agreed that our plea offer was more than fair and handed down a 6 year jail sentence along with restitution in the amount of \$75,000.00.

After handing down the sentence and advising Mr. Costanzo of a few items, Mr. Costanzo was taken directly into custody to start serving his sentence which will be served in a state penitentiary near Port Norris, NJ.

The laws of the Parole Board of State of New Jersey apply to this sentence. STS, as the victim of this crime have the right to provide statements and information to the Parole Board if in the future it considers the defendant for parole eligibility. Should this occur I will notify the entire membership.