

BLACKWELL Arrest Warrant Affidavit
Obstruction of Justice (common law)
GCSO case number 0700001320

Ware Shoals School District 51 employs Jane BLACKWELL as the principal of Ware Shoals High School. Greenwood County Sheriff's Office investigative staff had reason to contact BLACKWELL on 19 JAN 07 attendant to their investigation of the Ware Shoals High Cheerleading coach, Jill MOORE. During questioning by investigators, BLACKWELL stated that she had no prior knowledge of MOORE's possible involvement with providing alcohol to students until that week, when school officials had been contacted by Ware Shoals Chief of Police Mickey BOLAND.

Investigators have been able to determine, however, that not only did BLACKWELL possess prior knowledge of MOORE's activities, but that she affirmatively attempted to impede and hinder the investigation of those activities by concealing MOORE's actions from public scrutiny, intimidating potential witnesses, and misleading law enforcement subsequent to her notification that an official investigation had been initiated.

Investigators have obtained written statements from school officials confirming that BLACKWELL has been made aware of allegations that MOORE was improperly fraternizing with students and providing them with alcohol and tobacco products. These notifications began as early as Spring 2006, but have been confirmed in November 2006. Further, BLACKWELL had been made aware that MOORE had been participating in a sexual relationship with a National Guard member whose duties brought him in contact with MOORE at the school.

In the subsequent investigation of BLACKWELL's involvement with the MOORE case, investigators determined that BLACKWELL participated in a staff meeting wherein Chief BOLAND advised school officials that he intended to interview each member of the WSHS Cheerleading Squad. Immediately upon the completion of that meeting, BLACKWELL ordered a meeting with those students on the cheerleading squad. Sources informed investigators that during that meeting, BLACKWELL strictly prohibited the cheerleaders from "discussing the case with anyone."

Subsequent to MOORE's arrest, BLACKWELL authorized that restrooms throughout the school be locked during class transition times to preclude students ability to contact persons outside the school via text messaging. At least one student received disciplinary action for merely mentioning the MOORE case publicity in school. On at least two occasions during internal school staff meetings between January 2006 and December 2006, BLACKWELL stymied other school staff members' attempts to discuss MOORE's improper activities by ignoring the questions and/or terminating the meeting. Investigators report that during their visit to the school, BLACKWELL inquired as to the availability of records of calls made to the media so that she could determine if those calls originated from within the school.

The affiant states that probable cause exists to believe that BLACKWELL committed the SC common law offense of Obstruction of Justice in that she affirmatively concealed MOORE's activities from public and law enforcement scrutiny, failed to report potential violations of state law as required, effectively intimidated witnesses and potential

witnesses by misusing her authority as a school principal, and lying to law enforcement officials regarding her prior knowledge of MOORE's activities. Said offense occurred within Greenwood County and was committed against the peace and dignity of the State of South Carolina and in violation of such cases as made and provided.

Affiant Signature: Mike Frederick
Chief Deputy,
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Issuing Judge's Signature: Bart McGuire
Chief Magistrate, Greenwood County, SC
Room 101, Greenwood County Courthouse
Greenwood, SC 29646

Defendant Information

BLACKWELL, Jane
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Ware Shoals, SC 29692

White female, 5'8", 130lb
DOB: 05/05/47