

Cove Creek Teacher Charged With Sex Counts

Written by Steve Frank

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Friday, Watauga County Sheriff's Office received a report of alleged inappropriate sexual activity by a Watauga County School teacher with then minor Watauga County School students—plural. The report stated that the inappropriate sexual activity reported occurred during the years of 1998 to 2000 and 2004 to 2006. Sheriff Hagaman reported that the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Unit in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office conducted an investigation into the allegations, leading to contact and cooperation and support from the Watauga County Schools. As a result of the investigation, Amy Tilley Bower, 45, was arrested and charged with 2 counts of Sexual Activity with a Student and two of Indecent Liberties with a Child. The 279 NC Highway 194 South Vilas woman reportedly resigned as school started for the year, according to the Watauga County Schools, with Superintendent Dr. David Fonseca saying in a release, that "If the allegations are true, the behavior violated the trust of students, the ethics of the teaching profession, our school system policies, and the law. We take such possible misconduct very seriously. We have fully supported and cooperated with the investigation of this case by the Watauga County Sheriff's Office and we are grateful for their work." The Watauga County Schools said in their release that they initially learned of the investigation on August 20th, the day after Ms. Bower resigned her position as a fifth grade teacher at Cove Creek School. They said that Ms. Bower was first employed with the school system as a substitute teacher for the 1996-97 school year. Fonseca said that "It is understandable that this news may generate concerns about student safety. We want to reassure parents and everyone else that we continue to share their concern and that student safety continues to be our number one priority. At the same time, it is important to emphasize that the charges in this case involve the alleged behavior of one individual. Our confidence in the integrity, professionalism, and commitment of our teachers and other school personnel remains fully intact. We hope that the alleged misconduct of this one individual will not be allowed to tarnish the outstanding work of our personnel in the classroom and throughout our school system. Amy Tilley Bower was taken before a Watauga County Magistrate and given a secured bond in the amount of \$50,000.00 and given a court date of September 17th.