

Investigation of CCC break-in concluded

Associate Superintendent of Schools Dennis Richards told the School Committee last week that he has concluded an investigation into an alleged break-in at the Chinese Cultural Connection's (CCC) office in the high school.

On Aug. 26, CCC Director Mei Hung reported to the Police Department that on several occasions she found maintenance people working in her office without her knowledge, and on at least one occasion the office door was left open. In addition, in the middle of August Hung discovered a file missing that was related to programs performed in the Reading School District.

"Based on the information I have gathered I have no reason to believe that anything other than normal maintenance and custodial work has occurred in the area," Richards

wrote in a Sept. 1 memo to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harry Harutunian.

"As for the allegation filed by Mei Hung that CCC's Reading file is missing, I found no information to confirm that allegation," he wrote.

On Tuesday, Hung said she read Richards' memo. In one section Richards states that he was told by Interim Maintenance Director Dominic Cacciapuoti that high school custodians had a cordial relationship with the previous director, and that the custodians "had permission to enter the office at will using Reading keys on Reading locks."

"I think that was not correct," Hung said, adding that she called the former director to ask about who was allowed in the office.

"There was only one person who arranged with [the previous director] to come in once a month to mop the floor."

Hung also took issue with Richards' insinuation that the Reading file may not be missing.

"I'm sure they tried to avoid any kind of subject like that," Hung said.

Police Department Lt. Detective Kevin Patterson said this week that police also have concluded their investigation.

"The detective division did investigate, and the CCC is claiming those files are missing, and that well may be, but we haven't developed any suspects of anyone who may have taken them," Patterson said.

— Sean Corcoran

7 files missing
(one for each school)

Cultural Council to discuss guidelines

The Reading Cultural Council will present a community input meeting to discuss local council guidelines for prospective grant recipients, 7:30-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in the cafeteria of the Reading Municipal Light Department on Ash Street. The meeting is open to all individuals and organizations interested in applying for Cultural Council funding. All prospective grant applicants are encouraged to apply.



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