

Everett ed chief takes the offense

By Boston Herald editorial staff

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Everett School Superintendent Frederick Foresteire seems to think the best defense is a good offense.

Faced with a city auditor's report that shows he used a \$218,000 special education fund pretty much as a slush fund to pay for a variety of things that did nothing to benefit children in the program, Foresteire attacked the auditor who discovered the expenditures!

The superintendent is already awaiting trial on charges of receiving air conditioners for his home that were charged to the school department. Now he thinks there's nothing wrong with spending \$6,750 for Everett Chamber of Commerce events, \$24,000 for the city's homecoming parade, \$53,000 for ads in the Everett Independent to promote student events he thinks were undercovered, and \$1,462 at the Silver Fox restaurant.

How those expenditures helped youngsters in the Shore Education Collaborative, a group of school districts that share special education costs, remains a mystery.

But Foresteire insists the money doesn't need to be spent on special ed.

"You can promote the schools, you can use it for special ed, you can use it for the things you use it for," he told Herald education reporter Kevin Rothstein.

Foresteire also insists the disclosure is the work of a "renegade auditor" who "will be asked to resign shortly." Bet that will solve the problem.

Of course, then there's always state Auditor Joe DeNucci, whose staff is reportedly looking over Everett's school finances and special education expenditures too. Hope Foresteire isn't waiting for DeNucci to bail him out of this jam.

In any other city a guy with as many strikes against him as Foresteire would be long gone. What is Everett waiting for?

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