



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: June 6, 2012

Former Valley Forge Elementary Bookkeeper Misused Funds

The former bookkeeper of Valley Forge Elementary School in Carter County misappropriated more than \$8,000 from the school, an investigation by the Comptroller's Division of Municipal Audit has revealed.

Investigators found that between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010, Tabitha Street, the former school bookkeeper, misappropriated at least \$8,542 in various collections from the school and manipulated school records to conceal the thefts.

Street employed what is commonly known as a check-swapping scheme in which certain checks payable to the school were intentionally not recorded into the school's computer accounting system. Later, Street removed amounts of cash from school deposits and used the unrecorded checks to replace the cash she had taken.

Additionally, investigators found that Street failed to record and deposit at least \$2,317 in cash collections specifically related to the school's 2009 gourmet fundraiser and spring 2010 candy sale fundraiser.

The information uncovered during the audit was referred to the local district attorney general's office and Street was indicted last month on one count of theft over \$1,000 and one count of official misconduct.

The audit, which was released today, also found the school lacked proper safeguards in its collections and financial record keeping and also failed to prepare and maintain profit analysis reports for resale or fundraising activities.

"It is always disappointing when someone abuses a position of public trust, particularly when that position involves handling of funds intended to benefit schoolchildren," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "This case also illustrates, once again, what can happen when organizations don't have proper safeguards built into their accounting and recordkeeping practices."

To view the full report online, go to:

http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/RA_MA_Financial/Report_Investigative.aspx

Media contact: Blake Fontenay, Communications Director, (615) 253-2668 or blake.fontenay@tn.gov

[Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury](#)

State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: (615) 741-2501

Email: comptroller.web@cot.tn.gov