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18 July 2024

Office of the Attorney General of the State of Delaware Attn: Kathy Jennings, Attorney General 820 North French Street Wilmington, DE 19801 Email: attorney.general@delaware.gov

Attorney General Kathy Jennings,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Christina Education Association, the largest local teacher's union in the State of Delaware, representing 1,505 of Delaware educators. Over the last several months, the Christina School District Board of Education has exhibited dysfunctional behavior that has undermined public trust in the board and threatened the trust that the community has in the district. As the Department of Justice monitors the Board of Education, we wanted to elevate the voices of educators who are directly impacted by the chaos.

The actions of the board have prioritized personal grievances over the educational outcomes for the students of the district. Pettiness and slanderous accusations have taken the place of leadership and fiduciary responsibility. They have violated the integrity and trust bestowed upon the board by the Christina community, who deserve better from this elected body.

Over this past school year, there have been repeated violations of the Freedom of Information Act. These instances include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to properly notice meetings.
- Failure to publicly correct amended agendas.
- Failure to properly notice agenda items.
- Failure to properly notice executive sessions.

This board has continually stated publicly that it abides by Robert's Rules of Order. However, when it comes to implementing Robert's Rules of Order, the board has exhibited routine violations, which both hinder its efficacy and undermine the public's confidence in them to govern. For example, motions and seconds have been granted on an issue, and then motions and seconds are granted on another issue without acting on the original motion. Motions are often made to suspend the meeting without acting on the original motion. This is just one example of many that can be accessed by reviewing the recordings of each meeting. The board members do not know what "point of order" means and that it must be addressed before continuing with actionable items. It is obvious when watching the meetings in person or listening via recording, the board members do not have any indication as to the correct implementation of Robert's Rules of Order for conducting a meeting in a public forum.

The lack of public confidence and trust resulting from our elected leadership's disregard for public meeting laws and guidelines will have a direct and negative impact on our ability to successfully meet the needs of Christina students. We ask that you undertake a comprehensive review and correct the actions and inactions of the board. We ask for your oversight and intervention to address the Board's dysfunction and inability to effectively serve as an elected governing body.

Our students, staff, and community deserve better.

Sincerely,

David S. Kohan, NBCT

President, Christina Education Association

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