

From: [Arnica Rowan](#)
To: [Lee-Ann Tiede](#)
Cc: [Scott Parker](#); [Board of Education](#)
Subject: Inappropriate speech conclusion
Date: Friday, June 14, 2024 5:53:18 PM

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Dear Ms. Tiede;

Last weekend, my girls convoked from KSS, when you gave a speech at the ceremony. I appreciate that you gave a nice, heartfelt speech. However, at the end, you stated that, although you weren't supposed to, as it is a public school system, you were praying for the kids and their families.

I'm happy for anyone to pray for my kids on their own time. (May many blessings rain on us, from all directions!)

However, I strenuously object to the conclusion of your speech for two reasons:

1. Public prayer is not an appropriate activity in a public school.
2. You knew it was not allowed/appropriate, and did it anyway.

This action was a political statement, and had no place at our children's graduation. It was inappropriate to take advantage of a large community celebration for that purpose. Furthermore, you represent the public school board, and your actions reflect on the entire school district. I will remind you that the Oath of Office regulation for school trustees that you swore to, states that "I... will not allow any private interest to influence my conduct in public matters."

I ask for your personal assurance that you will refrain from religious statements in the future, at school or school district events. With that assurance, I consider the matter closed and require no further follow-up.

Sincerely, Arnica Rowan.

Arnica Rowan
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