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October 25, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

stephanie@ffrf.org

Stephanie A. Schmitt, Esq.
Freedom from Religion Foundation
P.O. Box 750
Madison, WI 53701

Re: New Heights Middle School Assembly

Dear Ms. Schmitt:

I am writing in reply to your October 17, 2011, letter inquiring about what you understood to be a student assembly at New Heights Middle School, scheduled for October 27, 2011, featuring speakers from the Bethel Colony of Mercy, in a program dealing with drug/alcohol awareness. According to your letter, while Bethel Colony of Mercy is a rehabilitation facility in Lenoir, NC, the organization's website indicates that the group is "pervasively Christian" and would "undoubtedly" offer a "faith-based presentation."

I wish to inform you that the Bethel Colony appearance as a school-sponsored event during the school day, involving students, has been cancelled. I also wish to inform you that, contrary to your understanding as expressed in your October 17 letter, the appearance of Bethel Colony at school was not discussed at a recent School Board meeting. In an effort to be completely open regarding the presence of Bethel Colony on District property, it is my understanding that the organization is to appear and present information following a PTO meeting in the evening on November 17, 2011. I am told that such an event is related to Red Ribbon activities and that the event will be open to persons who wish to attend on their own. If I am given further details concerning this event, I will provide them to you.

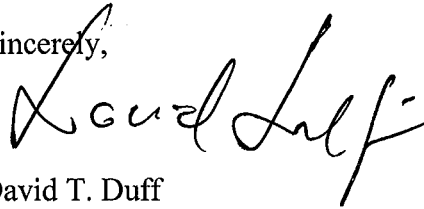
Stephanie A. Schmitt, Esq.

October 25, 2011

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In the meantime, should you have further questions about this matter please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T. Duff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David T. Duff

c: Dr. John E. Williams, Superintendent