

Donald B. Sweeney, Jr.
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205.521.8405 direct

DEC 13 2016



December 9, 2016

Ryan D. Jayne
Freedom From Religion Foundation
P.O. Box 750
Madison, WI 53701

Re: Blount County Board of Education

Dear Mr. Jayne:

As attorney for the Blount County Board of Education, I write in response to your letter dated November 22, 2016. (Copy attached.)

Superintendent Rodney Green investigated the matters set forth in your letter soon after receiving your request.

You relay a complaint that Ginger Chappell, a second grade teacher at Hayden Primary School, asked the class leader to lead a prayer while her students were lining up for lunch.

Prior to your letter, the District had no information about this incident. Ms. Chappell does not remember asking a student to lead a prayer.

Please know that the District understands that teachers should not engage in prayer with students or asking a student to lead prayer.

This position was explained to Ms. Chappell and we have every reason to believe that our teachers in the Blount County System understand what the law requires.

However, Superintendent Green advises he and his staff will conduct Professional Development with Blount County teachers in January 2017 on Board policy and the Establishment Clause.

Please extend my best wishes to Andrew Seidel.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald B. Sweeney, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Donald B. Sweeney, Jr.

DBS/co.

cc: Mr. Rodney Green, Superintendent
Ms. Kim Harbison, Principal