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January 26, 2015

Mr. Sam Grover
Freedom from Religion Foundation
Post Office Box 750
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Re: Your Letter of January 9, 2015

Dear Mr. Grover:

Your letter of January 9, 2015, addressed to me correctly asserts that the school employee involved with the Kids for Christ Bible Club at College Oaks Elementary School did not comply with the Calcasieu Parish School Board's policy on participation in student organizations. Indeed, upon receipt of your November 25, 2015, correspondence in which you asked for records regarding Kids for Christ Bible Club at College Oaks Elementary School, the School Board undertook to review the club's activities at that school. Subsequent to that review, but before your letter of January 9, 2015, Dr. Jill Portie had reminded College Oaks' staff of the School Board's policies on student clubs. Since that time the teacher who was handling club logistics, Kristen Shepherd, has been removed from that position. School staff members have not only been instructed on School Board policy, but have also been told by Dr. Portie that they may not hand out Bibles, may not wear Bible Club t-shirts on school premises during school hours, or be involved as school employees in the club activities, promoting the club, instructing club officers on how to lead club meetings, and promoting the club's values during those meetings, at school, or during school hours. School staff were also reminded that they may not "pressure" students to join the club.

Your latest letter also demands that the Kids for Christ Bible Club at College Oaks Elementary School "be disbanded." From what I have seen, I do not believe it would be appropriate to terminate the club's activities at school, and, on the other hand, doing so might violate the Equal Access Act.

Nonetheless, I have been assured by Dr. Portie that she has not only investigated the allegations, but has made a sincere effort to ensure that faculty members are not unlawfully involved in promoting or running these religious clubs, or their meetings. She

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has also reminded those at other schools of the School Board's rules and of the types of prohibitions which your January 9, 2015, letter discusses.

I trust that the foregoing satisfactorily addresses your concerns. I do request that should you become aware of any other issues, or issues at other schools, that you phone me or contact me by email so that I may promptly contact the appropriate school officials.

Thanks again for all your professional courtesies.

Sincerely,



GREGORY W. BELFOUR

GWB/ejs

cc: Superintendent Karl Bruchhaus
Dr. Jill Portie