



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 25, 2019

JUL 01 2019

Freedom From Religion Foundation
Attn: Christopher Line
P.O. Box 750
Madison, WI 53701

RE: Unconstitutional Religious Promotion in Football Program

Mr. Line:

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 20, 2019. In regards to Cedartown High School having an official team chaplain, Reverend Wayne Benefield, Coach Doyle Kelley and Principal Scott Hendrix have been informed that this is to cease immediately. I have met with both gentlemen to discuss all laws regarding the constitutional separation between state and church.

The district and school personnel have a clear understanding that no staff member, nor non-school affiliated adult, is allowed to promote or endorse religion to students. Also, school staff will not schedule prayer at school-sponsored events, including sports banquets.

Our assistant superintendent, Mr. Greg Teems, will conduct a meeting with all athletic programs and extra-curricular sponsors to convey the above listed district expectations. In addition, the administrative staff at each school will be required to participate in a session on the review of laws regarding the constitutional separation of church and state at our mandatory Administrative Academy on July 18, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (770) 748-3821.

Sincerely,

Laurie Atkins, Superintendent
latkins@polk.k12.ga.us



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 25, 2019

Mr. Doyle Kelley
Cedartown High School
167 Frank Lott Drive
Cedartown, GA 30125

RE: Unconstitutional Religious Promotion in Football Program

Mr. Kelley:

This is a follow-up letter to our meeting held on June 21, 2019. In regards to our meeting with Mr. Hendrix, I am reminding you that the chaplaincy program is to cease immediately. It is our responsibility to keep in mind all laws regarding the constitutional separation between church and state. We must have a clear understanding that no staff member, or non-school affiliated adult, is allowed to promote or endorse religion to students. In addition, you, nor anyone on your coaching staff, is allowed to schedule prayer at school-sponsored events, including sports banquets.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (770) 748-3821.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Atkins".

Laurie Atkins, Superintendent
latkins@polk.k12.ga.us