

From: Raymond Cole <rcole@wynnewood.k12.ok.us>
Subject: Re: Constitutional Violations in Wynnewood Schools
Date: March 4, 2013 3:29:07 PM CST
To: Andrew Seidel <aseidel@ffrf.org>

Dear Attorney Seidel,

After receiving your e-mail I talked to the Principal, Mr. Carter, and found that he had already spoken to the parent in question and that he had removed the posters. Further I found that he had spoken with the teacher, Mrs. Carter, and that Mrs. Carter had also spoken with the parent. I have visited with the teacher concerning this matter and I believe the situation has been dealt with to the satisfaction of all concerned parties.

I see some problems with these accusations, the greatest is that you have spoken to only one person and to my knowledge that person has never attended or observed one class in Mrs. Carter's room. The next concern I have is; the children brought the posters, not the teacher. Granted, if there were biblical verses on these posters the teacher should not have allowed the students to hang the posters. Although as I understand the law, prayer can be student led as long as no adult from the school solicits the student to lead the prayer. Of course when you allow these types of posters you open the door to ANY type of posters the students chose to hang in the classrooms.

Another problem with this situation is the fact that the Text Book makes reference to religious principles. My understanding is that a student ask a question concerning a reference in the text book and Mrs. Carter was attempting to answer the student's question. I instructed the teacher to possibly preface her future answers with a statement to the the effect of "I'm not promoting any religion, here's what the text has to say", and to stay strictly with the information presented in the text book.

As far as teachers files are concerned those are confidential and I will not discuss them.

I respect people who stand for what they believe in, although I dont really know what you believe in I only know what you dont believe in. Out of curiosity, I would like to ask you what you believe and I'm honestly not trying to be argumentative (it would be foolish to argue with a lawyer) I'm honestly interested in your views.

A couple of questions I would ask you is;

If you believe in evolution, why did we stop evolving? I mean, people are generally larger today than 2000 years or millions of years ago, but we haven't lost a toe or little finger, etc.

What happens when you die, if you're wrong? If I'm wrong, when I die I just die, but if you're wrong, when you die....

I have a degree in science and I'll admit some things were very confusing, or hard to understand, but in the end my faith in God forms my belief. I have seen God work in my life and I truly feel his presence. There have been many times in my life where I have fallen short but I know in my heart that God loves me and forgives my short comings, or sins.

I dont want to jump to any conclusions, perhaps you and many of your group are Christians and are just trying to keep Church and State separate. I would submit that the single greatest reason for the violence in our schools today is this so called separation, and that the further we separate God from our schools the nearer we bring violence and evil.

I'm telling you things in this e-mail that I DO NOT share with students because I try to obey the law even if I dont agree with a particular law. I think teaching students to be good citizens is our greatest responsibility and obeying the law is part of good citizenship.

Again as far as the violations are concerned, I am confident that the situation has been dealt with and no further concerns will occur. I would welcome your response if you feel so inclined.

Have a good day

Sincerely
Raymond Cole
Superintendent
Wynnewood Schools

----- Original Message -----

From: [Andrew Seidel](mailto:Andrew.Seidel@ffrf.org)
To: rcole@wynnewood.k12.ok.us
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 1:18 PM
Subject: Constitutional Violations in Wynnewood Schools

Dear Superintendent Cole,

Please find attached an important letter regarding constitutional violations occurring in Wynnewood Schools.

Warmest,

Andrew L. Seidel
Attorney
Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 750
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 256-8900

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Please find attached an important letter regarding constitutional violations occurring in Wynnewood Schools.

Warmest,

Andrew L. Seidel
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