

April 16, 2025

Madeline Ziegler
Staff Attorney
Freedom From Religion Foundation

Dear Ms. Ziegler,

I wanted to respond to your letter issued on April 2, 2025 regarding the Heath Brothers Assembly held at Hasty Elementary School on March 11, 2025. Davidson County Schools has investigated the incident and district staff have been reminded of their constitutional obligations as public school employees.

To provide clarity, the assembly was consistently promoted to the school as an anti-bullying event by the Heath Brothers organization. The materials describing the event and its content clearly were a misrepresentation of the content actually delivered – catching school and district administration by surprise. Additionally, school and district officials were not aware of any print materials that were to be distributed and as such no distribution of any materials were approved in advance by the district. Although there was anti-bullying content delivered, the Heath brothers sang several Christian and non-Christian songs and distributed devotional materials to elementary students. The distribution of religious literature is against our school board policy and legal precedent and our staff has been certainly reminded of this restriction. Please understand that at no time did the district attempt to communicate a message that religion or a particular religious belief is favored or preferred.

Moreover, I personally informed the board of education that distribution of religious print materials to elementary students is inappropriate. Furthermore, our legal counsel has provided guidance to the board of education on the sharing of any religious content.

Lastly, Principal Green of Hasty Elementary has reached out to the Heath Brothers organization and requested for them to remove a video posted on Facebook of the event. She has additionally addressed any and all personnel issues regarding this incident.

In conclusion, Davidson County Schools strongly supports a student's First Amendment Rights. We are disappointed in the misrepresentation of assembly materials presented by the Heath Brothers Organization. Consequently, all schools have been reminded of their legal obligations in protecting students and their aforementioned rights regarding religious materials content. We are confident that no further events of this nature will occur in the future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gregg Slate
Superintendent
Davidson County Schools