

June 26, 2026

Via E-Mail: mziegler@ffrf.org
& First Class Mail

Madeline Ziegler, Staff Attorney
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Post Office Box 750
Madison, WI 53701-0750

Re: June 11, 2026 Correspondence

Dear Ms. Ziegler:

This office represents the West Chester Area School District (the "District"). Thank you for your letter dated June 11, 2026, regarding concerns about alleged teacher-directed religious activities at J.R. Fugett Middle School. The District takes seriously its obligation to uphold the constitutional rights of all students and staff, including adherence to the First Amendment and the principles governing religion in public schools.

Upon receipt of your correspondence, the District promptly initiated a review of the matters you raised. This review included gathering information from building administration and staff, as well as examining relevant practices in light of District policy, administrative guidelines and applicable legal standards.

As a result of this review, the District has addressed the concerns identified in your letter. Appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that any student club activities are both student-initiated and student-led, and that any staff involvement aligns with applicable legal requirements. In addition, guidance has been provided to building leadership to reinforce expectations regarding instructional practices and assemblies, including the importance of maintaining institutional neutrality with respect to religion and ensuring that any faculty presentations or activities during the school day are secular in purpose and consistent with curriculum standards.

The District has also implemented additional administrative oversight and staff communication to ensure clarity on these matters moving forward. These measures are intended to prevent similar concerns from arising in the future and to ensure continued compliance with constitutional obligations.

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The District remains committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their religious or nonreligious beliefs, and to conducting its educational programs in a manner consistent with the law.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Very truly yours,



Amanda J. Sundquist

AJS/akf

cc: David Christopher, Ed.D., Superintendent, WCASD (*via e-mail*)
James Conley, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, WCASD (*via e-mail*)
Teresa Ferraguto Rita, Director of Human Resources, WCASD (*via e-mail*)
Mark Pontzer, Assistant Director of Human Resources, WCASD (*via e-mail*)