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September 8, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Samantha F. Lawrence
Staff Attorney
Freedom From Religion Foundation

RE: Lidgerwood Public School Graduation Ceremony

Dear Ms. Lawrence:

The Lidgerwood Public School District has reviewed your June 16, 2026, correspondence concerning the invocation included in the May 17, 2026, high school commencement program.

The District respects the constitutional rights of all students and families, including both the right to be free from school sponsored religious exercises and the right of students and employees to engage in constitutionally protected private religious expression. The District has reviewed the legal authorities governing religious expression at public school graduation ceremonies, including *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577 (1992), *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290 (2000), and *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 597 U.S. 507 (2022).

Consistent with those authorities, the District will not sponsor or organize a clergy delivered prayer as part of future graduation programs. The District will continue to treat private religious and nonreligious expression neutrally and in accordance with applicable First Amendment law.

The District does not agree with all of the factual characterizations contained in your letter, including the assertion that the District intentionally forced any student to participate in prayer. Nevertheless, the foregoing addresses the prospective actions requested in your correspondence.

Sincerely,

SERKLAND LAW FIRM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian McLean', is written over the printed name and email address.

Ian R. McLean
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