



**PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

FREDDIE BOWLING, SUPERINTENDENT

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DISTRICT 1
DONALD THORNSBURY

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STEPHANY LOWE

DISTRICT 3
DEWAYNE ABSHIRE

DISTRICT 4
JOSHUA LEONARD, DMD

DISTRICT 5
SHANE HURLEY

September 11, 2026

Charlotte R. Gude
Freedom From Religion Foundation
P.O. Box 750
Madison, WI 53701

RE: "PRAYER WALK" EVENT

Dear Ms. Gude,

I have received and reviewed your letter dated September 9, 2026, referencing the "prayer walk" event on August 2, 2026, at Mullins Elementary School. I have spoken with Principal Ricky Thacker and advised him to speak with his staff about this issue and to refrain from organizing, promoting, and encouraging attendance at religious events, and ensure that all future school-sponsored events are entirely secular. I will make every effort to ensure that our employees are not unlawfully or inappropriately indoctrinating students in religious matters.

Sincerely,


Neal Smith, General Counsel

NS/sc