



Help One of our Club Members in the midst of a 1st Amendment Battle

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Please email your support of Brooke and her 1st Amendment rights to the following Prior Lake Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) representatives ASAP.

Jeffers Pond Elementary Principal: Patrick Glynn

Prior Lake Area Schools Superintendent, Dr Michael Thomas

PLSAS School Board Members

pglynn@plsas.org

mthomas@plsas.org

schoolboard@plsas.org

Use any of the content from 'Background' or 'The Issue' summaries or bullets below to develop your email. [We want unique emails so we didn't create a template for you.]

Background:

Our member, Brooke Zahn, is a teacher at a Prior Lake elementary school, Jeffers Pond. She posted a meme early December on a PRIVATE, lighthearted, politically conservative Facebook page. The meme was a picture of a family which said, "A family that is deported together, stays together."

The Issues:

Due to a previous comment on a public discussion page where she stated in a response to a post calling President Trump a bully that she is a teacher and she does not believe Donald Trump is a bully, a conversation began on another Facebook page to "go after her". Somehow, a screen shot of the posted meme was shared outside of the PRIVATE group for the purpose of cancelling her and spreading 'misinformation'.

WHILE THE INVESTIGATION WAS ONGOING:

- the school sent out a communication to all Jeffers Pond parents informing them of the meme
- an e-mail was sent to the staff, district wide, informing them of the situation
- two staff members shared this situation with a group of high school students
- two of the students then spoke about the impact the meme had on them during the December 9th public comment at the school board meeting. [Brooke does not know and never taught these students.]

Prior to Christmas Brooke was suspended without pay for seven (7) days.

She is now back in the classroom as of January and was told informally that perhaps she should consider a different career. She is working with the Union to file a grievance and also has attorneys working with her on this 1st Amendment issue. She should have the right to express her thoughts and ideas outside of the work place without any fear of retaliation.

- Brooke is a tenured teacher who has taught for multiple decades
- Brooke has been celebrated by the VFW as Teacher of the Year
- She made a post on a PRIVATE conservative Facebook group
- A screenshot of the post was shared outside the PRIVATE group by someone not in the group for purposes of canceling her and spreading "misinformation"
- Violates her 1st Amendment rights
- The "offended" are assuming the intent of the post rather than asking for clarification
- Many liberal teachers have offended conservatives (parents and students) without similar repercussions
- Suspension and a week without pay seems rather severe – What problem does the school have with the 1st Amendment and expressing thoughts outside of the classroom?