



For Immediate Release

Contact: Francis Malofiy, Esquire (215) 500-1000

November 23, 2020

Dr. Amy Sacks Sues Perkiomen Valley School District for Illegally Firing Her in Violation of Her 1st Amend. Right to Freedom of Speech and 14th Amend. Right to Procedural Due Process

Dr. Amy Sacks was the principal of Evergreen Elementary School in the Perkiomen Valley School District in suburban Philadelphia. Evergreen Elementary was one of the top 15 schools in Pennsylvania under Dr. Sacks' leadership. She is a 20-year veteran educator, with an impeccable performance record, who cares deeply about her students and the community. She is a third-generation resident and was a star athlete for the district when she attended PVSD.

In July 2020 Dr. Sacks was mysteriously removed as principal with little explanation. The community has a right to know the truth about what happened. ***Amy was illegally attacked, threatened, and fired by the District because she holds right-of-center political views.***

Like millions of Americans over the last year Amy posted political memes opposing Joe Biden and other Democrats, while supporting the police and Republican candidates, on her private Facebook account. As a public employee, Dr. Sacks' private expression is protected by the First Amendment, and also by Board Policies 320 and 321 which encourage employees to privately participate in politics and civics.

Amy learned that the District does not believe that conservatives and Republicans have the right to free speech.

The Superintendent, Dr. Barbara Russell, told Amy without notice or warning on June 22, 2020 that she was terminated as principal because of political memes posted to Amy's personal Facebook that Russell found offensive. Amy was reeling and blindsided. At no point was Amy advised to get counsel, nor was she informed of her rights; instead she was viciously threatened with career ruination if she tried to contest anything happening. On July 13, 2020, the Board approved Amy's termination, absurdly and Orwellianly recharacterizing it as a "resignation" to hide what they had done. Disappointingly, these constitutional violations were aided and abetted by the law firm Fox Rothchild.

This conduct was wildly illegal. Amy has a near absolute right to free speech on her private Facebook account. Furthermore, before any action can be taken against a public employee, Due Process requires that the school provide her notice of the charges against her. This was never done—because PVSD knew that her termination was baseless.

On October 30, 2020, Amy filed suit against the Perkiomen Valley School District for violating her rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. No one in America should face government persecution for political expression. If Perkiomen Valley could so brazenly attack Amy, then it is beyond doubt that the students are being similarly abused.

This continues a trend of left-wing administrators attacking public school employees they politically disagree with. The Law Firm of Francis Alexander also represents Ashley Bennett, the former Supervisor of Special Education for the neighboring North Penn School District. Ashley was forced and coerced to resign after a Facebook repost criticizing Black Lives Matter for ignoring black conservatives, black unborn babies, and black police officers.

It is plain that the left-wing administrators in the public school system have decided that those they politically disagree with can be silenced and punished by the government. Amy and Ashley had no desire to file suit, and tried to do everything to resolve these situations without litigation, but they have no choice

but to now hold the school districts accountable for their egregious misconduct.

Schools and administrators that tout the virtues of diversity of people need to first respect diversity of thought, opinion, speech, and political affiliation.

Francis Malofiy, Esquire & AJ Fluehr, Esquire

280 N. PROVIDENCE ROAD · SUITE 1 · MEDIA , PA 19 063 · T: 215. 500 .10 0 0 · F: 215.500.1005 FRANCIS
@FRANCISALEXANDER.COM · WWW.FRANCISALEXANDER.COM