

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
(Newark Vicinage)**

MOMS FOR LIBERTY,

Plaintiff,

v.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, *et al.*,**

Defendants.

Case No.

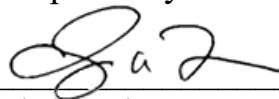
2:26-cv-10863-MEF-ADS

STIPULATION OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL

The matter having been amicably resolved by the parties as reflected in the Settlement Agreement, which is **Exhibit 1** hereto, this action is hereby dismissed with prejudice and without costs. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney fees.

Dated: October 14, 2026

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher A. Ferrara

Senior Counsel

THOMAS MORE SOCIETY

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS on January 8, 2024, the Board of Education of the School District of the Chathams ("the District") adopted the New Jersey School Boards Association Model Policy 5145.7 on "Gender Identity and Expression" ("Policy 5145.7"); and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, ruled in *Matthew J. Plutkin v. Middletown Township Board of Education, et al.*, (A-0037 -23, February 10, 2025) that boards of education could rescind gender identity and expression policies as they are optional policies because the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination "makes it unlawful for schools to subject individuals to discrimination based on their 'gender identity or expression,'" as defined in N.J.S.A. 10-5-12(f)(1); and

WHEREAS on September 14, 2026, the Board of Education repealed and replaced its entire policy manual with all mandatory board policies under a new policy provider and did not readopt optional Policy 5145.7 or optional policy 5756 from the new policy provider; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the adoption of Policy 5145.7, the United States Supreme Court handed down its decisions in *Mirabelli v. Bonta*, 607 U.S. 492, 497-98 (2026), and *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, 606 U.S. 522, 550 (2025), respecting the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of parents to direct the religious formation and upbringing of their children, as previously established in prior Supreme Court precedents, including *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 211 (1972);

NOW, THEREFORE, it is AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- (a) The Board of Education did not readopt Policy 5145.7 at its September 14, 2026 meeting and will not readopt this optional policy (or a derivative policy including 5756) in the

future unless mandated by State or Federal law pursuant to terms that are compliant with United States Supreme Court precedent;

(b) The Board of Education and its personnel will continue to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations including, but not limited to the NJLAD and United States Supreme Court precedent respecting the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of parents (See e.g., *Mirabella v. Bonta*, 607 U.S. 492, 497-98 (2026), and *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, 606 U.S. 522, 550 (2025), *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 211 (1972)) and all current and future district employees will be provided with a copy of this settlement agreement.

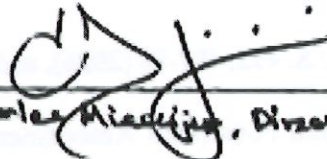
(c) Moms for Liberty will dismiss with prejudice its lawsuit filed against the School District of the Chathams Board of Education and the individually named defendants, 2:26-cv-10863.

(d) Both parties shall be responsible for their own attorneys' fees and costs.

MOMS FOR LIBERTY

Plaintiff

By: _____


Charles Miedzius, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs

Dated: October 11, 2026

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Defendants

By: _____


Peter Daquila, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dated: October 14, 2026

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS BOARD OF EDUCATION
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
AS RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK**

The School District of the Chathams Board of Education in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, convened in a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7:33 PM in the Chatham High School Auditorium located at 255 Lafayette Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present at the time of this motion:

Present: Sally Allen, Ann Ciccarelli, Chris Delsandro, Kate Peck, Susan Ross, Michael Ryan, and Jill Weber

Absent: Bradley Smith and Dr. Yinglu Zhang

Also Present: Dr. Emily Sortino, Superintendent, Mr. Peter Daquila, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dr. Mary Donohue, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Blair Rosenthal, Assistant Superintendent Student Support Services, and 25 members of the public and press

On a motion by Trustee: Ms. Weber, seconded by Trustee: Ms. Ciccarelli the consent agenda item B.14 was approved by a roll call vote: 7- 0.

B.14 Settlement Agreement

RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves the settlement agreement in the matter of Moms for Liberty v. School District of the Chathams Board of Education 2:26-cv-10863-MEF-ADS.

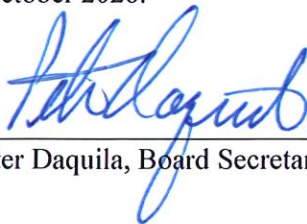
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District of the Chathams Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Board.

State of New Jersey)

) ss

County of Morris)

I, Peter Daquila, Board Secretary of the School District of the Chathams Board of Education, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of said district duly called and held on October 12, 2026 has been compared by me with the original minutes as officially recorded in my office in the minute book of said meeting of the Board of Education and is a true, complete copy thereof and of the whole of said original minutes so far as the same relate to the subject matter referred to in said extract in witness I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Board of Education this 14th day of October 2026.



Peter Daquila, Board Secretary

(SEAL)