

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Maggie A. Cook
President
Mentor Board of Education
6451 Center St.
Mentor, OH 44060

Dear President Cook,

Thank you for your service on the Mentor Board of Education (“Board”). As both a parent and the President of the Board, I am certain you can understand the importance of disseminating accurate information about laws and regulations pertaining to public education to the American taxpayers.

I write to express my strong concern regarding the statements that one of your fellow Board Members, Lauren Marchaza, recently made at the February 11, 2025 Board Meeting. Her misleading statements could be interpreted, at best, as attempting to engage in the unauthorized practice of law,¹ and, at worst, as the pronouncement that the Board will refuse to comply with President Trump’s Executive Orders.²

Specifically, Board Member Marchaza, noted in reference to President Trump’s Executive Order titled, “Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling”³ that “the phrase ‘consistent with applicable law,’ I think that kind of gives everybody a little bit of flexibility in terms of like what *is legal and what is not...*”⁴ Board Member Marchaza went on to state that “there are multiple provisions in federal law that prohibit the federal government from getting involved in state and local decisions about K-12 curriculum, so no executive order can actually overrule [um] that federal law or regulation so I think that is important for us to remember.”⁵

To the best of my knowledge, Board Member Marchaza is not a lawyer. And yet, she has seemingly made the sole determination that the Board can undermine the President of United States’ constitutional authority to protect parental rights in education, and outlaw unconstitutional, far-left racial discrimination in public schools.⁶ I don’t know how else to interpret this Board Member’s statements other than as an indication that the Board plans to flagrantly disregard President Trump’s Executive Orders.

¹ Ohio Revised Code 4705.07 prohibits any person who is not licensed in the state from committing any act that is prohibited by the supreme court as being the unauthorized practice of law. *See also*, Rule VII of the Supreme Court Rules for Government of the Bar of Ohio.

² Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution vests executive powers in the president and requires that the president “shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”

³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-indoctrination-in-k-12-schooling/>.

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opF7ZEIxAM>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.; Title IX, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.; FERPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; and the PPRA, 20 U.S.C. 1232h.

I am hoping you can help me understand the official position of the Board. Please respond to my office no later than five days of receipt this letter with the answers to the following questions:

- Does the Board and Mentor Public Schools plan to enforce President Trump's Executive Orders including but not limited to, the Executive Order "Ending Racial Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling"?
- Does the Board and Mentor Public Schools plan to fully comply with the laws cited in President Trump's Executive Order?
- Why did a non-attorney Board Member provide legal analysis of and commentary on the President's Executive Orders to the Board, as opposed to the Board's counsel?
- Are you aware that Lake County receives over \$1 billion in state and federal funding?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernie Moreno". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "B" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BERNIE MORENO
United States Senator