

RE: Neal Children at All Saints Catholic Academy

Mary Ann McLean <mamclean@dioceseofjoliet.org>

Mon 12/18/2023 3:33 PM

To:Mario Neal <MNeal@Naperville203.org>;Thomas Neal <thomastn@umich.edu>

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To Mario Neal and Thomas Neal:

You are in violation of my directive, sent to you on December 14, of ONLY communicating with Ms. Marshall and Ms. Detwiler concerning your children. Therefore, we are hereby putting a block on all emails sent by Mario Neal to ASCA, with the exception of emails going to Ms. Marshall and Ms. Detwiler. If there is anything of an urgent nature that arises concerning one of your children, please call the school office during hours of operation.

Mr. Thomas Neal: if not of an urgent nature directly concerning one of your children, please direct your inquiries and requests by email to the school email accounts of Ms. Marshall and Ms. Detwiler. Otherwise, if it is an urgent and immediate matter concerning one of your children, you may call the school office directly for their attention.

The staff at ASCA is doing everything possible to assure the safety, security, education and faith formation of your children. The parental dispute between the two of you is taking a toll on the teachers, administration and staff at our fine school and we will not allow this to continue to impact our school.

Mary Ann McLean
General Counsel

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From: Mario Neal <MNeal@Naperville203.org>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 6:44 AM
To: Mary Ann McLean <mamclean@dioceseofjoliet.org>; Thomas Neal <thomastn@umich.edu>
Cc: Margie Marshall <mmarshall@ascacademy.org>; Maggie Detwiler <mdetwiler@ascacademy.org>; Karen Blaha <kblaha@ascacademy.org>; Rebecca Baldauf <rbaldauf@ascacademy.org>; Christina Magana <cmagana@ascacademy.org>; Brianne England <bengland@ascacademy.org>; pbajek@ascacademy.org; sesfdonofrio@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Neal Children at All Saints Catholic Academy

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Mary Ann McLean.

I write to you today with a heavy heart, burdened by the alarming circumstances that have unfolded within the school community of All Saints Catholic Academy. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincerest apologies if any of the emails I have previously sent were perceived as offensive. I must emphasize that my intention has always been to seek transparency and justice for my children, who have endured distressing circumstances that demand our immediate attention. I am reaching out not only as a concerned parent but also as an advocate for justice and equality.

Upon reading the directive stipulating that I can no longer reach out directly to my children's teachers, a wave of concern washed over me. As a parent deeply involved in my children's education, I firmly believe that establishing a solid and open line of communication with their teachers is paramount in ensuring their unique needs are met. Limiting my access to discuss concerns and advocate for my children contradicts the values upheld by the Catholic teachings we hold dear.

Furthermore, your correspondence mentioned that false claims had been made against two staff members. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the investigations conducted in response to these allegations, I kindly request that you provide detailed information regarding the methodology employed, the timeline, and the outcome of said investigations. As a parent wholly dedicated to safeguarding the safety and well-being of my children, it is my utmost priority to ensure that any potential misconduct is addressed with the gravity it deserves.

Also, as you may already know, court documents containing false information were filed months ago, which could be easily disproven through evidence and testimony. Despite my efforts, I raised this issue with the administration and relevant parties. I have not received any communication disproving the inaccuracies stated in those documents. Nor is an email directed to my husband like the one I just received.

Furthermore, I must address the disrespect and attempts to silence me that I have endured throughout this process. Instead of being treated with the respect and empathy that I deserve as a concerned parent, I have been met with dismissive attitudes and efforts to silence my voice. This treatment is completely unacceptable and only further reinforces my concerns about the integrity and fairness of the investigation.

I also want to bring to your attention that the school was duly informed of the ongoing divorce proceedings and the concerted efforts made to hinder my children from speaking with the assigned social worker. Despite my tireless pleas for emotional support, it was only through legal intervention that my children were able to access the necessary services. I implore the school administration to reflect upon the obstacles my husband experienced in providing the crucial emotional support our children required during that tumultuous period.

Reviewing the records, it is evident that this staff member expressed concern and subsequently reported these concerns to the guardian ad litem. Shortly after that, contact between my child and this staff member abruptly ceased. To my shock and distress, my child later disclosed that a call had been made assuring her that the individuals responsible for helping children would keep her safe. I comforted and assured her of

her strength, promising to do everything I could to support and protect her. However, all subsequent attempts to seek assistance, including contacting individuals I believed could help, were met with disregard, citing the school's assertion that no reports had ever been made. Weeks later, when I asked how she was doing, her response was, "I don't want to talk about my body anymore." It was then that I realized the extent of her distress.

Transparency and fairness are paramount when addressing the deeply troubling allegations of sexual abuse made by my child. These allegations were voiced with tremendous courage, and it is my unwavering duty as a concerned parent to stand by and support my child through this arduous process. I seek reassurance that a thorough investigation has been conducted without bias and that appropriate child protection measures have been promptly implemented.

Throughout this enduring ordeal, it has become painfully evident that I have been subjected to differential treatment. Amidst circumstances where all factors should be considered equal, my Mexican heritage and the color of my skin, in stark contrast to my husband's white privilege and the influence of his family, have seemingly influenced our treatment. This glaring dichotomy begs the question: Would I have faced the same injustices if I were white?

Rest assured, my commitment to my children's well-being remains unwavering. I will continue to advocate, peacefully protest, and exhaust every available avenue to ensure the truth is uncovered and justice is served. I undertake this battle not out of spite but of profound concern, care, and unwavering love for my children. I must emphasize that I am committed to fighting for my children and uncovering those who may be covering up the abuse. I refuse to remain silent!

Mario Neal

From: Mary Ann McLean <mamclean@dioceseofjoliet.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Mario Neal <MNeal@Naperville203.org>; Thomas Neal <thomastn@umich.edu>
Cc: Margie Marshall <mmarshall@ascacademy.org>; Maggie Detwiler <mdetwiler@ascacademy.org>
Subject: Neal Children at All Saints Catholic Academy

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Dear Mario Neal and Thomas Neal:

Over the past year I have been aware of the family dispute between the two of you, which of course impacts your three children and the school at which they all attend (All Saints Catholic Academy, or “ASCA”). I represent ASCA and its staff and clergy. We’ve responded to a number of matters and legal requests – from both of you and your attorneys – over the past year. ASCA is doing its utmost best to educate and support your children through all of this.

Recently, emails have been directed to staff members which are offensive and completely inaccurate. This will no longer be tolerated. We will continue to support your children in every way possible, but neither of you may be disrespectful to our staff.

Therefore, going forward, ANY communications (including emails, letters, phone calls, voice mails, etc.) may ONLY be addressed to Ms. Margie Marshall (the principal) and to Maggie Detwiler (the assistant principal). To be clear, if either of you find need to communicate with one of your children’s teachers or any member of the school staff, those communications may ONLY be directed to both Ms. Marshall and Ms. Detwiler. They will take responsibility for passing along information or requests to the appropriate teacher or staff member.

As always, any changes in drop-offs, pick-ups, schoolwork, absences, etc should be communicated to the school BUT only to Ms. Marshall and Ms. Detwiler.

Thank you for your cooperation with this method of communication.

Mary Ann McLean
General Counsel

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