



BEAVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1300 FIFTH STREET • BEAVER, PENNSYLVANIA 15009

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Moriah Bridges



November 21, 2017

Dear Moriah,

On November 20, 2017 the Beaver Area School Board approved a revised policy regarding student expression. We found a need to better comply with U.S. Department of Education guidelines and Supreme Court decisions regarding student expression at public functions like graduation, after meeting with you and the attorneys from First Liberty Institute in September.

I am sorry there was a lack of clarity about our policy, and I regret the frustration this caused you and your family. Under the revised policy, student speakers will be selected on the basis of genuinely neutral, objective criteria, and will retain primary control over the content of their expression. The expressions of student speakers will not be attributable to the District and will not be restricted because of religious, anti-religious, or non-religious content. Since becoming Superintendent last year, I've been reviewing all District policies, and I wish I had gotten to this one sooner.

I thought you might also be interested to know that I had some productive conversations related to this matter with local Pastor Jeff Arnold of First Presbyterian Church in Beaver, as well as other members of the local Ministerium. They provided some great feedback and also volunteered to facilitate a baccalaureate service for graduating seniors. You may not know that a baccalaureate service used to be offered, but was discontinued by the ministerium after attendance declined.

Best wishes as you continue your education at Grove City College.

Dr. Rowe,
Superintendent of Schools
Beaver Area School District