



MOMS FOR LIBERTY
WILLIAMSON COUNTY CHAPTER
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Dr. Penny Schwinn, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Commissioner.schwinn@tn.gov

RE: Rejection of Complaint against Wit & Wisdom Curriculum on Technical Grounds

Dear Dr. Schwinn,

I am in receipt of your response dated November 23, 2021 to my complaint against the Wit & Wisdom Curriculum, made by letter to you on June 30, 2021.

In my initial June 30th letter, I used 11 pages to describe how the curriculum, particularly that of Great Minds PBC Wit & Wisdom (WW) English Language Arts (ELA), Grade 2, Module 3, “Civil Rights Heroes” contains anti-American, anti-White, and anti-Mexican teaching. New legislation, signed into law by Governor Lee in May 2021, prohibits such teaching in the state of Tennessee.

My June 30th letter stated that “the parents and grandparents of Moms for Liberty Williamson County implore your immediate attention on this matter as the 2021-2022 school year fast approaches.”

It took **five months** to respond that the “allegations described in your complaint occurred during the 2020-2021 school year”, so “[t]herefore, the department will not initiate an investigation into the claims alleged...” since it had not yet occurred in the 2021-2022 school year.

There is no reason to wait. You are aware of the issue – and it was raised with respect to the 2021-2022 school year in advance of the injury of this curriculum on our children and grandchildren.



Why did it take 5 months for a response to the complaint I made in June? Interestingly, in the meantime – between my letter dated June 30, 2021 and your response to me on November 23, 2021 – you have created new rules for the Department of Education, which says that complaints must be filed on a *newly created* form to the local education agency.

That does not obviate the complaint I made prior to your new rules.

You have a responsibility to the children of our great state. I believe you have a legal responsibility, even though you have tried to dodge those responsibilities on technicalities and newly created rules. Tenn. Code Ann § 49-6-1019 (c) states that “If the **commissioner of education** [emphasis added] finds that an LEA or public charter school knowingly violated this section, then the commissioner shall withhold state funds”. What does it mean when the commissioner of education *already knows in advance* that a violation will occur? That is the current situation in our state.

Which leads to your *moral* responsibility. You know that the current curriculum is divisive, dark and not age appropriate. I outlined that in detail five months ago. It is as much a *moral* failing as it is a legal failing to allow it to continue another year.

Sincerely,



Robin E. Steenman
Chair, Moms for Liberty - Williamson County, TN