

To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6); Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6) AFL000001  
Sent: Mon 9/27/2021 5:11:04 PM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: RE: School Board Meeting Disruptions

"I can resist everything but temptation." – Oscar Wilde. I wasn't suggesting, of course, that you say that to Myesha, even though it's 100% true.

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From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 5:09 PM  
To: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6); Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: RE: School Board Meeting Disruptions

I'll resist the temptation to add that last part to the response.

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From: Karlan, Pamela (CRT)  
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 4:45 PM  
To: Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6); Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: RE: School Board Meeting Disruptions

Dear Shaheena,

I'm fine with your response. I don't think (b) (5)

Take care,

Pam

---

From: Friel, Gregory B (CRT)  
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 3:15 PM  
To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6); Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: RE: School Board Meeting Disruptions

I'm unaware that DRS is (b) (5), but I'll check.

**Gregory B. Friel**

Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Civil Rights Division

U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6)

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From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 3:13 PM  
To: Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6); Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6); Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: FW: School Board Meeting Disruptions

Just looping in Pam and Greg before I respond. I can say something like the following and cc Pam and Shaylyn.

(b) (5)

Greg, I don't want to speak for DRS but I don't think (b) (5).

From: Braden, Myesha (ODAG)

Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 3:05 PM

To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6) >

Cc: Sooknanan, Sparkle (OASG) (b) (6)

Subject: School Board Meeting Disruptions

Hi, Shaheena and Shaylen.

Just verifying that the issue of (b) (5)  
It seems (b) (5) but  
please let me know if I've missed something.

Thanks,

Myesha

Myesha Braden  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Deputy Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
(b) (6)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

**To:** Eichner, James (CRT) (b) (6); Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT) (b) (6)  
**From:** Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6) [REDACTED] AFL000003  
**Sent:** Thur 9/30/2021 9:33:54 AM (UTC-04:00)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - NSBA letter seeking DOJ help on threats against school boards over CRT, etc.

Thanks. Some of this has been referred to the Criminal Division. It's gotten crazy.

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**From:** Eichner, James (CRT)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:31 AM  
**To:** Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6); Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT) (b) (6) >  
**Cc:** Eichner, James (CRT) (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FYI - NSBA letter seeking DOJ help on threats against school boards over CRT, etc.

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

To: Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT) (b) (6)  
Cc: Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT) (b) (6); Marshall, Franz R (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6)

Sent: Tue 10/5/2021 9:49:24 AM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: RE: Did we know about this??

We may have some role in looking at things but it's primarily a law enforcement response. The request was for DOJ help in addressing threats of violence made again school board members and other officials over COVID policies and critical race theory.

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From: Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT)  
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:18 AM  
To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6) >  
Cc: Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT) (b) (6) >; Marshall, Franz R (CRT) (b) (6) >  
Subject: RE: Did we know about this??

Do they want us to participate or (b) (5) ?

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From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:17 AM  
To: Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT) (b) (6)  
Cc: Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT) (b) (6); Marshall, Franz R (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: Re: Did we know about this??

Yes, I was looped in on some conversations over the weekend and I saw a draft last night.

On Oct 5, 2021, at 9:14 AM, Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT) (b) (6) wrote:

You are subscribed to DOJ Press Releases & News for U.S. Department of Justice. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

[Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers](#)  
10/04/2021 12:00 AM EDT

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation's public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend.

To: CRT EDU Section (b) (6) (b) (6)  
From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)(b) (6) (b) (6) AFL000005

Sent: Tue 10/5/2021 10:04:55 AM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update  
[NSBA Letter to President Biden Concerning Threats to Public Schools and School Board Members.pdf](#)

All, please see the announcement below from the AG regarding a coordinated DOJ law enforcement response to recent increased threats, including threats of violence that may implicate criminal laws, against school board members and other officials. As you all know, these threats have involved a range of issues, (b) (5)

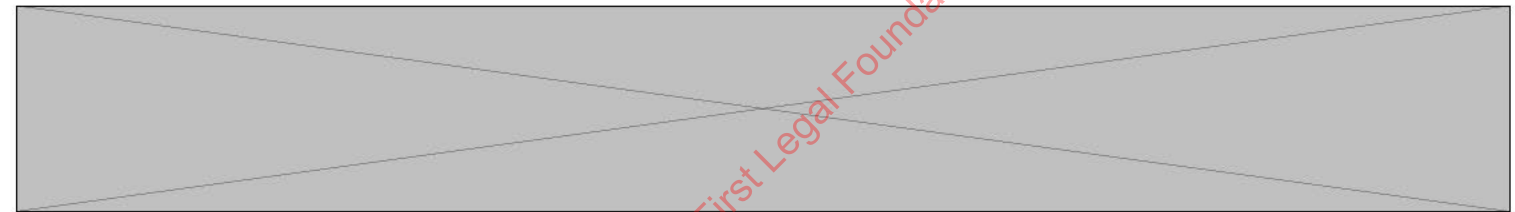
(b) (5)

This action is partly in response to a letter from the National School Boards Association, attached. I was involved in some conversations about this over the weekend and will keep you all posted about developments. If you become aware of potentially criminal threats at school board meetings please loop in me or a deputy so we can help with referrals to the appropriate authorities.

Thanks,  
Shaheena

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From: U.S. Department of Justice <usdoj@public.govdelivery.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 7:03 PM  
To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update



You are subscribed to DOJ Press Releases & News for U.S. Department of Justice. This information has recently been updated, and is now available

[Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers](#)

10/04/2021 12:00 AM EDT

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation's public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend.



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National School Boards Association  
1680 Duke St FL2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493  
Phone: (703) 838.6722 • Fax: (703) 683.7590  
[www.nsba.org](http://www.nsba.org)

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: *Federal Assistance to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation. Local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and that must be at the forefront of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. However, there also must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.

NSBA believes immediate assistance is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.<sup>1</sup> This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts educating more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID 19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools, including threats school officials are receiving.

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<sup>1</sup> The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States," July 14, 2021, [https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED\\_Fact-Sheet\\_CRT-Demos\\_2021.pdf](https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf).

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In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance – including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.<sup>2</sup> NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center<sup>3</sup> regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the

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<sup>2</sup> The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, “Editorial: Mob’s actions at school board meeting unacceptable,” September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center “Averting Targeted School Violence” March 2021 <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/202103/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence.2021.03.pdf>.

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protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue

These threats or actual acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California<sup>4</sup>, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, and other states<sup>7</sup> because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19.

An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.<sup>8</sup> During two separate school board meetings in Michigan<sup>9</sup>, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements, and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory.

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<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/ Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment," September 9, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomerado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

<sup>5</sup> Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly," September 20, 2021, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

<sup>6</sup> Alia Malik *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* "Anti mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting" May 21 2021 <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>

<sup>7</sup> Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies," August 12, 2021, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials, police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

WBTV-Charlotte, "Gov. Roy Cooper addresses 'threats, bullying, intimidation' at school board meetings over mask requirements," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wbvt.com/2021/09/21/gov-roy-cooper-address-fight-against-covid-19-north-carolina/>.

<sup>8</sup> WGEM, "Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting," September 2, 2021, <https://wgem.com/2021/09/02/mendon-man-arrested-following-disruption-at-unity-school-board-meeting/>.

<sup>9</sup> Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate," August 19, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>

Kalie Marantette *WLNS.com* "Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public 'disruption'" June 16 2021, <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.



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In New Jersey<sup>10</sup>, Ohio<sup>11</sup>, and other states<sup>12</sup>, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia<sup>13</sup>, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting discussion distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity issues. In other states including Washington<sup>14</sup>, Texas<sup>15</sup>, Wisconsin<sup>16</sup>, Wyoming<sup>17</sup>, and Tennessee<sup>18</sup>, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly. A resident in Alabama, who proclaimed himself as “vaccine police,” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Joe Strupp, *Asbury Park Press*, “NJ mask mandate for students sparks school board disruption, suspends meeting,” August 26, 2021, <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/in-our-schools/2021/08/26/nj-school-mask-mandate-sparks-disruption-boe/5585283001/>.

<sup>11</sup> Maia Belay, Fox8, “Sheriff deputies called to tense Nordonia Hills school board meeting due to mask policy,” August 31 2021 <https://fox8.com/news/sheriff-deputies-called-to-tense-nordonia-hills-school-board-meeting-due-to-mask-policy/>.

<sup>12</sup> Pete Bannon, *The Delaware County Daily Times*, “Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.delcotimes.com/2021/08/25/mask-protest-brings-cops-to-garnet-valley-school-board-meeting/>.

Brenley Goertzen, Salon.com, “Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting,” August 12, 2021, <https://www.salon.com/2021/08/12/anti-mask-mob-swarm-school-board-meeting/>.

<sup>13</sup> Drew Wilder, Jackie Bensen, Andrea Swalec and NBC4 Washington Staff, NBCWashington.com, “‘The Meeting Has Degenerated’: 1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity,” June 22, 2021, Updated June 23, 2021, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/loudoun-school-board-transgender-student-policy-race-equity/2708185/>.

Adele Uphaus, *The Free Lance-Star*, “Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes,” August 24, 2021, [https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article\\_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html](https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html).

<sup>14</sup> Emily Gilbert, *Whidbey News Times*, “Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting” August 13 2021 <https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/oak-harbor-school-board-clears-the-room-after-audience-shouts-disrupt-meeting/>

<sup>15</sup> Talia Richman and Brayden Garcia, *The Dallas Morning News*, “‘Critical race theory’ roils Fort Worth school board meeting as Texas braces for continued fight,” June 22, 2021, <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/06/22/critical-race-theory-roils-fort-worth-school-board-meeting-as-texas-braces-for-continued-fight/>.

<sup>16</sup> WBAY news staff and Jason Zimmerman, WBAY.com, “Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.wbay.com/2021/08/25/oshkosh-school-board-meeting-called-off-after-protesters-enter-board-members-walk-out/>.

<sup>17</sup> Margaret Austin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle via Wyoming News Exchange, *Pinedale Roundup*, “School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption,” August 4, 2021, <https://pinedaleroundup.com/article/school-board-meeting-over-covid-stopped-after-disruption>.

<sup>18</sup> Jackie Delpilar, WZTV Nashville, “Anti-mask protesters show lack of empathy at recent Middle Tennessee school meetings,” September 12, 2021, <https://fox17.com/news/local/anti-mask-protesters-show-lack-of-empathy-at-recent-middle-tennessee-school-meetings>.

<sup>19</sup> Aubrey Bailey WHNT.com “‘If you give one more shot you yourself will be executed’ Alabama man tells Missouri pharmacists” August 24 2021 <https://whnt.com/news/alabama-news/if-you-give-one-more-shot-you-yourself-will-be-executed-alabama-man-tells-missouri-pharmacists/>.

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Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and spreading misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID 19<sup>20</sup>

In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a school board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity.<sup>21</sup> This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.<sup>22</sup> These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms.<sup>23</sup> Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered their decision.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.<sup>24</sup> It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates and we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups who are targeting our schools and educators.

<sup>20</sup> Nick Surgery *Documented* “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members” August 20 2021 <https://substack.com/documented-net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

<sup>21</sup> Lindsey Mills, WBNS, “Disturbing’: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools,” September 21, 2021, <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>.

<sup>22</sup> Kim Bellware, *The Washington Post*, “Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid-19,” September 10, 2021, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_main&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzLY0tz4p0yB5VJDk\\_n\\_oIj5AJp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzLY0tz4p0yB5VJDk_n_oIj5AJp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY).

<sup>23</sup> Andy Humbles, *The Nashville Tennessean*, “Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member,” September 8, 2021, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>.

Terri Pederson, *The Daily Citizen*, “Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family,” September 20, 2021, Updated September 21, 2021, [https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article\\_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html).

<sup>24</sup> National School Boards Association and AASA The School Superintendents Association “NSBA AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions” September 22 2021, <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>.

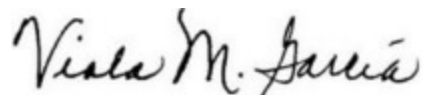
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NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you

Respectfully,



Viola M. Garcia, EdD  
President



Chip Slaven, Esq.  
Interim Executive Director & CEO

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

**To:** Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6) ]  
**From:** Goldberg, Suzanne[Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov]  
**Sent:** Sat 10/2/2021 6:08:38 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

AFL000012

Shaylin,  
Also wanted to say that I'm glad to reconnect by email and look forward to seeing you again before long!  
Suzanne

Suzanne B. Goldberg  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Operations and Outreach  
U.S. Department of Education

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**From:** Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 7:34 PM  
**To:** Simons, Shaheena (CRT) <(b) (6)>; Goldberg, Suzanne <Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Shaheena—Many thanks for the connection!

Suzanne—Hello! We met over the summer when you visited CRT. I'm pinning down the appropriate DOJ contact on this matter, and I will connect you with that person ASAP.

Best,  
Shaylyn

Shaylyn Cochran  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 7:30 PM  
**To:** Goldberg, Suzanne <Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov>  
**Cc:** Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

Suzanne,  
  
I'm copying Shaylyn Cochran, CRT's Chief of Staff. Shaylyn can help connect you with the appropriate office.  
  
Have a terrific weekend.

On Oct 1, 2021, at 6:29 PM, Goldberg, Suzanne <Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov> wrote:

Hi Shaheena, Do you know who would be the right person in DOJ to reach out to on this? Thanks, Suzanne

I'm including an excerpt from the cover note that includes the basic context and have highlighted the request:

AFL000013

Please find attached a letter to President Biden sent on behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), our state association members, and the thousands of local school board members across the nation concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We appreciate the recent opportunity to discuss these issues with White House and Administration officials. The letter requests that federal law enforcement and relevant agencies work with state and local authorities and public schools to address these ongoing threats. It also outlines some of the publicly reported threats and incidents that have taken place.

<NSBA Letter to President Biden Concerning Threats to Public Schools and School Board Members.pdf>

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

To: Clarke, Kristen (CRT) (b) (6) 1  
Cc: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6) Powers, John (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: Cochran, Shaylyn ((b) (6)) AFL000014

Sent: Wed 10/6/2021 7:11:13 AM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: FW: school board notes -- today's hearing  
[VAWA hearing notes for KC.docx](#)

Good Morning Kristen,

You may already have this, but I want to make sure you saw Joe's notes from the VAWA hearing. Senators Hawley and Cotton brought up the Attorney General's announcement about threats to school board members during today's VAWA hearing. Notes of their questioning are attached (the indented bullets are the DAG's answers), as is the Attorney General's announcement. The recommending talking points, per Joe:

(b) (5)

[Redacted content]

If pressed on whether you were involved in (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Best,  
Shaylyn

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

Hawley

(b) (5)

Cotton

(b) (5)

AG Press Release

WASHINGTON – Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation’s public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys’ Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend. These sessions will open dedicated lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment and response by law enforcement.

“Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our nation’s core values,” wrote Attorney General Garland. “Those who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that our children receive a proper education in a safe environment deserve to be able to do their work without fear for their safety.”

According to the Attorney General’s memorandum, the Justice Department will launch a series of additional efforts in the coming days designed to address the rise in criminal conduct directed toward school personnel. Those efforts are expected to include the creation of a task force, consisting of representatives from the department’s Criminal Division, National Security Division, Civil Rights Division, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the FBI, the Community Relations Service and the Office of Justice Programs, to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes, and ways to assist state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement where threats of violence may not constitute federal crimes.

The Justice Department will also create specialized training and guidance for local school boards and school administrators. This training will help school board members and other potential victims understand the type of behavior that constitutes threats, how to report threatening conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and how to capture and preserve evidence of threatening conduct to aid in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

Threats of violence against school board members, officials, and workers in our nation's public schools can be reported by the public to the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) via its national tip line (1-800-CALL-FBI) and online through the FBI website (<http://fbi.gov/tips>). To ensure that threats are communicated to the appropriate authorities, NTOC will direct credible threats to FBI field offices, for coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners as appropriate. Reporting threats of violence through NTOC will help the federal government identify increased threats in specific jurisdictions as well as coordinated widespread efforts to intimidate educators and education workers.

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.



To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)(b) (6); Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT)(b) (6)  
Cc: Eichner, James (CRT)(b) (6)  
From: Eichner, James (CRT)(b) (6)

AFL000017

Sent: Thur 9/30/2021 9:31:21 AM (UTC-04:00)

Subject: FYI - NSBA letter seeking DOJ help on threats against school boards over CRT, etc.  
[nsba letter to president biden concerning threats to public schools and school board members 92921.pdf](#)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.



National School Boards Association  
 1680 Duke St FL2, Alexandria, VA 22314-3493  
 Phone: (703) 838.6722 • Fax: (703) 683.7590  
[www.nsba.org](http://www.nsba.org)

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
 President of the United States  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20500

Re: *Federal Assistance to Stop Threats and Acts of Violence Against Public Schoolchildren, Public School Board Members, and Other Public School District Officials and Educators*

Dear Mr. President:

America's public schools and its education leaders are under an immediate threat. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) respectfully asks for federal law enforcement and other assistance to deal with the growing number of threats of violence and acts of intimidation occurring across the nation. Local school board members want to hear from their communities on important issues and that must be at the forefront of good school board governance and promotion of free speech. However, there also must be safeguards in place to protect public schools and dedicated education leaders as they do their jobs.

NSBA believes immediate assistance is required to protect our students, school board members, and educators who are susceptible to acts of violence affecting interstate commerce because of threats to their districts, families, and personal safety. As our school boards continue coronavirus recovery operations within their respective districts, they are also persevering against other challenges that could impede this progress in a number of communities. Coupled with attacks against school board members and educators for approving policies for masks to protect the health and safety of students and school employees, many public school officials are also facing physical threats because of propaganda purporting the false inclusion of critical race theory within classroom instruction and curricula.<sup>1</sup> This propaganda continues despite the fact that critical race theory is not taught in public schools and remains a complex law school and graduate school subject well beyond the scope of a K-12 class.

On behalf of our state associations and the more than 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts educating more than 50 million schoolchildren, NSBA appreciates your leadership to end the proliferation of COVID 19 in our communities and our school districts. We also appreciate recent discussions with White House and U.S. Department of Education staff on many critical issues facing public schools, including threats school officials are receiving.

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<sup>1</sup> The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), "Fact Sheet: Demonstrations over Critical Race Theory in the United States," July 14, 2021, [https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED\\_Fact-Sheet\\_CRT-Demos\\_2021.pdf](https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACLED_Fact-Sheet_CRT-Demos_2021.pdf).

Preclusion of Further Threats and Violence Against Students and Educators  
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In addition, we applaud your actions to restore resources to school districts that have not yet received their education stabilization funding through the Project SAFE (Supporting America's Families and Educators) grant program for coronavirus recovery efforts, including the use of face masks and other precautions to help prevent COVID-19 infections among students and educators. Now, we ask that the federal government investigate, intercept, and prevent the current threats and acts of violence against our public school officials through existing statutes, executive authority, interagency and intergovernmental task forces, and other extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our children and educators, to protect interstate commerce, and to preserve public school infrastructure and campuses.

While local and state law enforcement agencies are working with public school officials in several communities to prevent further disruptions to educational services and school district operations, law enforcement officials in some jurisdictions need assistance – including help with monitoring the threat levels. As these threats and acts of violence have become more prevalent – during public school board meetings, via documented threats transmitted through the U.S. Postal Service, through social media and other online platforms, and around personal properties – NSBA respectfully asks that a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and with public school officials be undertaken to focus on these threats.<sup>2</sup> NSBA specifically solicits the expertise and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center<sup>3</sup> regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We also request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.

As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes. As such, NSBA requests a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the FBI, including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight. Additionally, NSBA requests that such review examine appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, the Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the

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<sup>2</sup> The Herald Editorial Board, *HeraldNet*, “Editorial: Mob’s actions at school board meeting unacceptable,” September 1, 2021, <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/editorial-mobs-actions-at-school-board-meeting-unacceptable/>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center “Averting Targeted School Violence” March 2021 <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/202103/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence.2021.03.pdf>.

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 Page Three

protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure. As the threats grow and news of extremist hate organizations showing up at school board meetings is being reported, this is a critical time for a proactive approach to deal with this difficult issue

These threats or actual acts of violence against our school districts are impacting the delivery of educational services to students and families, as many districts receive federal funds and subsidies for services to millions of students with disabilities, health screenings and supplemental supports for disadvantaged students, child nutrition, broadband connectivity, educator development, school safety activities, career and technical education, and more. School board meetings have been disrupted in California<sup>4</sup>, Florida<sup>5</sup>, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, and other states<sup>7</sup> because of local directives for mask coverings to protect students and educators from COVID-19.

An individual was arrested in Illinois for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct during a school board meeting.<sup>8</sup> During two separate school board meetings in Michigan<sup>9</sup>, an individual yelled a Nazi salute in protest to masking requirements, and another individual prompted the board to call a recess because of opposition to critical race theory.

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<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Marie Himchak, *Poway News Chieftain/ Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, "Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment," September 9, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/pomerado-news/news/schools/story/2021-09-09/protesters-disrupt-poway-unified-board-meeting-force-its-ag>.

<sup>5</sup> Ryan McKinnon, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, "Sarasota school board may limit public input after some meetings get disorderly," September 20, 2021, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2021/09/20/sarasota-school-board-may-limit-public-input-after-meetings-gone-wild/8417784002/>.

<sup>6</sup> Alia Malik *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* "Anti mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting" May 21 2021 <https://www.ajc.com/news/anti-mask-crowd-disrupts-gwinnett-school-board-meeting/IYO7R6GHJ5DTLEFCQHER7V3GBA/>

<sup>7</sup> Julie Wootton-Greener, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "School board meeting turns contentious over COVID-19 policies," August 12, 2021, <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/>.

WAVY.com, "Norfolk school officials, police monitoring threats made toward Norview schools," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/norfolk-school-officials-police-monitoring-threats-made-toward-norview-schools/>.

WBTV-Charlotte, "Gov. Roy Cooper addresses 'threats, bullying, intimidation' at school board meetings over mask requirements," September 21, 2021, <https://www.wbvtv.com/2021/09/21/gov-roy-cooper-address-fight-against-covid-19-north-carolina/>.

<sup>8</sup> WGEM, "Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting," September 2, 2021, <https://wgem.com/2021/09/02/mendon-man-arrested-following-disruption-at-unity-school-board-meeting/>.

<sup>9</sup> Steve Neavling, *Detroit Metro Times*, "Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate," August 19, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2021/08/19/nazi-salute-insults-hurled-at-ruckus-birmingham-schools-meeting-over-mask-mandate>

Kalie Marantette *WLNS.com* "Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public 'disruption'" June 16 2021, <https://www.wlns.com/news/grand-ledge-school-board-goes-into-recess-due-to-public-disruption/>.

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In New Jersey<sup>10</sup>, Ohio<sup>11</sup>, and other states<sup>12</sup>, anti-mask proponents are inciting chaos during board meetings. In Virginia<sup>13</sup>, an individual was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing, and a third person was hurt during a school board meeting discussion distinguishing current curricula from critical race theory and regarding equity issues. In other states including Washington<sup>14</sup>, Texas<sup>15</sup>, Wisconsin<sup>16</sup>, Wyoming<sup>17</sup>, and Tennessee<sup>18</sup>, school boards have been confronted by angry mobs and forced to end meetings abruptly. A resident in Alabama, who proclaimed himself as “vaccine police,” has called school administrators while filming himself on Facebook Live.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Joe Strupp, *Asbury Park Press*, “NJ mask mandate for students sparks school board disruption, suspends meeting,” August 26, 2021, <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/in-our-schools/2021/08/26/nj-school-mask-mandate-sparks-disruption-boe/5585283001/>.

<sup>11</sup> Maia Belay, Fox8, “Sheriff deputies called to tense Nordonia Hills school board meeting due to mask policy,” August 31 2021 <https://fox8.com/news/sheriff-deputies-called-to-tense-nordonia-hills-school-board-meeting-due-to-mask-policy/>.

<sup>12</sup> Pete Bannon, *The Delaware County Daily Times*, “Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.delcotimes.com/2021/08/25/mask-protest-brings-cops-to-garnet-valley-school-board-meeting/>.

Brenley Goertzen, Salon.com, “Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting,” August 12, 2021, <https://www.salon.com/2021/08/12/anti-mask-mob-swarm-school-board-meeting/>.

<sup>13</sup> Drew Wilder, Jackie Bensen, Andrea Swalec and NBC4 Washington Staff, NBCWashington.com, “‘The Meeting Has Degenerated’: 1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity,” June 22, 2021, Updated June 23, 2021, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/loudoun-school-board-transgender-student-policy-race-equity/2708185/>.

Adele Uphaus, *The Free Lance-Star*, “Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes,” August 24, 2021, [https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article\\_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html](https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/unruly-crowd-causes-spotsylvania-school-board-meeting-to-adjourn-after-13-minutes/article_1d39b83c-fa43-5626-acca-4e2768a811de.html).

<sup>14</sup> Emily Gilbert, *Whidbey News Times*, “Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting” August 13 2021 <https://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/news/oak-harbor-school-board-clears-the-room-after-audience-shouts-disrupt-meeting/>

<sup>15</sup> Talia Richman and Brayden Garcia, *The Dallas Morning News*, “‘Critical race theory’ roils Fort Worth school board meeting as Texas braces for continued fight,” June 22, 2021, <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2021/06/22/critical-race-theory-roils-fort-worth-school-board-meeting-as-texas-braces-for-continued-fight/>.

<sup>16</sup> WBAY news staff and Jason Zimmerman, WBAY.com, “Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out,” August 25, 2021, Updated August 26, 2021, <https://www.wbay.com/2021/08/25/oshkosh-school-board-meeting-called-off-after-protesters-enter-board-members-walk-out/>.

<sup>17</sup> Margaret Austin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle via Wyoming News Exchange, *Pinedale Roundup*, “School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption,” August 4, 2021, <https://pinedaleroundup.com/article/school-board-meeting-over-covid-stopped-after-disruption>.

<sup>18</sup> Jackie Delpilar, WZTV Nashville, “Anti-mask protesters show lack of empathy at recent Middle Tennessee school meetings,” September 12, 2021, <https://fox17.com/news/local/anti-mask-protesters-show-lack-of-empathy-at-recent-middle-tennessee-school-meetings>.

<sup>19</sup> Aubrey Bailey WHNT.com “‘If you give one more shot you yourself will be executed’ Alabama man tells Missouri pharmacists” August 24 2021 <https://whnt.com/news/alabama-news/if-you-give-one-more-shot-you-yourself-will-be-executed-alabama-man-tells-missouri-pharmacists/>.

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Other groups are posting watchlists against school boards and spreading misinformation that boards are adopting critical race theory curriculum and working to maintain online learning by haphazardly attributing it to COVID 19<sup>20</sup>

In Ohio, an individual mailed a letter to a school board member labeling the return address on the envelope from a local neighborhood association and then enclosing threatening hate mail from another entity.<sup>21</sup> This correspondence states that, “We are coming after you and all the members on the ... BoE [Board of Education].” This hate mail continues by stating, “You are forcing them to wear mask—for no reason in this world other than control. And for that you will pay dearly.” Among other incendiaries, this same threat also calls the school board member a “filthy traitor,” implies loss of pension funds, and labels the school board as Marxist. Earlier this month, a student in Tennessee was mocked during a board meeting for advocating masks in schools after testifying that his grandmother, who was an educator, died because of COVID-19.<sup>22</sup> These threats and acts of violence are affecting our nation’s democracy at the very foundational levels, causing school board members – many who are not paid – to resign immediately and/or discontinue their service after their respective terms.<sup>23</sup> Further, this increasing violence is a clear and present danger to civic participation, in which other citizens who have been contemplating service as either an elected or appointed school board member have reconsidered their decision.

NSBA believes public discussions and transparency by local school board members are important for the safe and effective operations of schools.<sup>24</sup> It is vital that public discourses be encouraged in a safe and open environment, in which varying viewpoints can be offered in a peaceful manner. Our children are watching the examples of the current debates and we must encourage a positive dialogue even with different opinions. However, with such acute threats and actions that are disruptive to our students’ well-being, to the safety of public school officials and personnel, and to interstate commerce, we urge the federal government’s intervention against individuals or hate groups who are targeting our schools and educators.

<sup>20</sup> Nick Surgery *Documented* “TPUSA launches project targeting school board members” August 20 2021 <https://substack.com/documented-net/p/tpusa-school-board-watchlist>

<sup>21</sup> Lindsey Mills, WBNS, “Disturbing’: Worthington school board member receives threats for masks in schools,” September 21, 2021, <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/worthington-school-board-member-receives-threats-for-masks-in-schools/530-f3c04240-76b4-456b-aad9-8555397b5427>.

<sup>22</sup> Kim Bellware, *The Washington Post*, “Student mocked at school board meeting after sharing that his grandmother died of covid-19,” September 10, 2021, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_main&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzLY0tz4p0yB5VJDk\\_n\\_olj5AJp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/09/10/grady-knox-tennessee/?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR29rIKzLY0tz4p0yB5VJDk_n_olj5AJp6oiEvzJC1oRAYsMMMOPb8EvjY).

<sup>23</sup> Andy Humbles, *The Nashville Tennessean*, “Jon White resigns as Wilson County School Board member,” September 8, 2021, <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/wilson/2021/09/08/jon-white-resigns-wilson-county-school-board-member/5750949001/>.

Terri Pederson, *The Daily Citizen*, “Beaver Dam school board member resigns citing safety concerns for family,” September 20, 2021, Updated September 21, 2021, [https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article\\_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html](https://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/education/beaver-dam-school-board-member-resigns-citing-safety-concerns-for-family/article_066fc86c-4356-5a00-9940-187e02eb7340.html).

<sup>24</sup> National School Boards Association and AASA The School Superintendents Association “NSBA AASA Issue Joint Statement Calling for End to Threats and Violence Around Safe School Opening Decisions” September 22 2021, <https://www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement>.

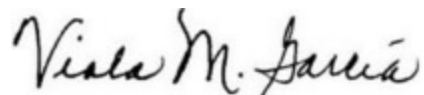
Preclusion of Further Threats and Violence Against Students and Educators

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NSBA is committed to working with you and your Administration as a partner to address this crisis affecting America's public schools, and greatly appreciates your prompt attention to our requests. We stand ready to work with you

Respectfully,



Viola M. Garcia, EdD  
President



Chip Slaven, Esq.  
Interim Executive Director & CEO

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

To: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT) (b) (6)

AFL000024

Sent: Tue 10/5/2021 9:20:24 AM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: RE: Did we know about this??

No worries...I was just interested. There have been similar reports in several of the news services, like Ed Week. (b) (6)  
today... (b) (6).

---

From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:18 AM  
To: Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
Cc: Pellegrino, Whitney (CRT) (b) (6); Marshall, Franz R (CRT) <(b) (6)>  
Subject: Re: Did we know about this??

I'll send it around when (b) (6). The focus is on prosecution of criminal threats.

On Oct 5, 2021, at 9:17 AM, Simons, Shaheena (CRT) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Yes, I was looped in on some conversations over the weekend and I saw a draft last night.

On Oct 5, 2021, at 9:14 AM, Wohlenhaus, Renee (CRT) (b) (6) > wrote:

You are subscribed to DOJ Press Releases & News for U.S. Department of Justice. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

**[Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers](#)**

10/04/2021 12:00 AM EDT

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation's public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend.



Cc: Simons, Shaheena (CRT) (b) (6); Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6); Moossy, Robert (CRT) (b) (6)  
To: Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6)

AFL000025

Sent: Fri 10/1/2021 7:32:36 PM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

I'm fine with that too.

Pam Karlan

(b) (6)

On Oct 1, 2021, at 4:22 PM, Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6) > wrote:

Shaheena—I'm fine with directing Suzanne to Myesha or I can help interface; whatever makes the most sense here.

Shaylyn

---

From: Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 6:54 PM  
To: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6); Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6); Moossy, Robert (CRT) (b) (6); Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

All, this is same letter Myesha reached out about earlier in the week.

To whom do you think I should direct Suzanne? ODAG?

Thanks and have great weekend.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Goldberg, Suzanne" <[Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov)>  
Date: October 1, 2021 at 6:29:51 PM EDT  
To: "Simons, Shaheena (CRT)" (b) (6)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

Hi Shaheena, Do you know who would be the right person in DOJ to reach out to on this? Thanks, Suzanne

I'm including an excerpt from the cover note that includes the basic context and have highlighted the request:

Please find attached a letter to President Biden sent on behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), our state association members, and the thousands of local school board members across the nation concerning threats to public schools and school board members. We appreciate the recent opportunity to discuss these issues with White House and Administration officials. The letter requests that federal law enforcement and relevant agencies work with state and local authorities and public schools to address these ongoing threats. It also outlines some of the publicly reported threats and incidents that have taken place.

**To:** Braden, Myesha (ODAG) (b) (6) Goldberg, Suzanne[Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov]  
**From:** Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)

AFL000026

**Sent:** Fri 10/1/2021 7:54:05 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**Subject:** DOJ-ED connection, school board meeting disruptions

Good Evening Myesha and Suzanne,

I am writing to connect you re: disruptions at school board meetings concerning COVID protocols. I understand from Shaheena that you both are looking into this issue and may benefit from connecting to determine any joint equities between DOJ and ED-OCR.

Best,  
Shaylyn

**Shaylyn Cochran**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6)

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

Cc: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6) [1: Powers, John (CRT) (b) (6) ]  
To: Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: Clarke, Kristen (CRT) (b) (6)

AFL000027

Sent: Wed 10/6/2021 9:39:12 AM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: Re: school board notes -- today's hearing

Thank you, Shaylyn.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 6, 2021, at 7:11 AM, Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6) > wrote:

Good Morning Kristen,

You may already have this, [Duplicative Material pp.14

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

To: (b)(6) Peter Koutoujian  
From: Clarke, Kristen (CR1)/(b)(6)

AFL000028

Sent: Thur 10/7/2021 5:13:29 PM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: FYI

President Koutoujian: As promised, see release below and link to memo here: [Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff \(justice.gov\)](#)

## JUSTICE NEWS

### Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, October 4, 2021

## Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation's public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend. These sessions will open dedicated lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment and response by law enforcement.

"Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our nation's core values," wrote Attorney General Garland. "Those who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that our children receive a proper education in a safe environment deserve to be able to do their work without fear for their safety."

According to the Attorney General's memorandum, the Justice Department will launch a series of additional efforts in the coming day designed to address the rise in criminal conduct directed toward school personnel. Those efforts are expected to include the creation of a task force, consisting of representatives from the department's Criminal Division, National Security Division, Civil Rights Division, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the FBI, the Community Relations Service and the Office of Justice Programs, to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes, and ways to assist state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement where threats of violence may not constitute federal crimes.

The Justice Department will also create specialized training and guidance for local school boards and school administrators. This training will help school board members and other potential victims understand the type of behavior that constitutes threats, how to report threatening conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and how to capture and preserve evidence of threatening conduct to aid in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

Threats of violence against school board members, officials, and workers in our nation's public schools can be reported by the public to the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) via its national tip line (1-800-CALL-FBI) and online through the FBI website (<http://fbi.gov/tips>). To ensure that threats are communicated to the appropriate authorities, NTOC will direct credible threats to FBI field offices, for coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners as appropriate. Reporting threats of violence through NTOC will help the federal government identify increased threats in specific jurisdictions as well as coordinated widespread efforts to intimidate educators and education workers.

Cc: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6); Friel, Gregory B (CRT) (b) (6); Moossy, Robert (CRT) (b) (6)  
To: Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: (b)(6) Shaheena Simons (CRT)  
Sent: Fri 10/1/2021 7:28:09 PM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

AFL000029

Many thanks Shaylyn. I'll cc you on my response and you can feel free to connect her with Myesha or anyone else.

Enjoy the weekend!

On Oct 1, 2021, at 7:22 PM, Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Shaheena—I'm fine with directing Suzanne to Myesha or I can help interface; whatever makes the most sense here.

Shaylyn

Duplicative Material pp. 25

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.

To: Karlan, Pamela (CRT) (b) (6)  
From: (b) (6) Shaheena Simons (CRT)  
Sent: Sat 10/2/2021 11:58:19 AM (UTC-04:00)  
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

AFL000030

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT)" <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** October 1, 2021 at 7 34 18 PM EDT  
**To:** "Simons, Shaheena (CRT)" (b) (6), "Goldberg, Suzanne"  
<Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

Shaheena—Many thanks for the connection!

Suzanne—Hello! We met over the summer when you visited CRT. I'm pinning down the appropriate DOJ contact on this matter, and I will connect you with that person ASAP.

Best,  
Shaylyn

**Shaylyn Cochran**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
(b) (6)

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**From:** Simons, Shaheena (CRT)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 7:30 PM  
**To:** Goldberg, Suzanne <Suzanne.Goldberg@ed.gov>  
**Cc:** Cochran, Shaylyn (CRT) (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Letter to President Biden from the National School Boards Association

Suzanne,

I'm copying Shaylyn Cochran, CRT's Chief of Staff. Shaylyn can help connect you with the appropriate office.

Have a terrific weekend.

Duplicative Material pp. 25

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Obtained by America First Legal Foundation through litigation.