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September 30, 2022

VIA E-MAIL [superintendent@ppsd.org](mailto:superintendent@ppsd.org)

Dr. Javier Montañez  
Superintendent  
Providence Public Schools  
797 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: *Ramona Bessinger Planned "Protest"*

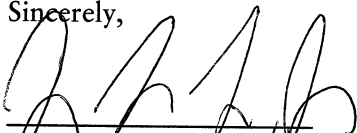
Dear Superintendent Montañez:

We represent Ramona Bessinger, a 24-year veteran teacher at Classical High School. As you may be aware, Ms. Bessinger has spoken out publicly regarding her concerns about the current curriculum in Providence Public Schools. As a result, Ms. Bessinger has been subjected to a continuing campaign of retaliation and harassment related to her protected First Amendment expression. Among these actions against Ms. Bessinger was her being involuntarily transferred last year and left to sit in a school basement without any duties for nine months. After Ms. Bessinger grieved this wholly inappropriate action and an arbitration was scheduled, PPSD reversed its position without explanation, and finally restored Ms. Bessinger to the classroom.

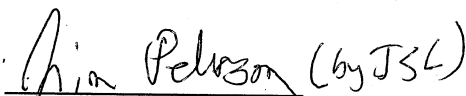
The harassment and retaliation against Ms. Bessinger, however, has not ceased. As you may be aware, it has now culminated with a planned teacher/student protest of Ms. Bessinger scheduled for today at noon. The principal and other administrators at Classical High School apparently have endorsed this action against one of their own teachers. As a result, because of this school endorsement of the retaliation/harassment campaign against Ms. Bessinger, the threats and vitriol against her have only escalated, including at least one death threat.

We ask that you immediately put an end to the inappropriate and unlawful campaign of harassment against Ms. Bessinger. Ms. Bessinger seeks only to continue teaching students as she has done exceptionally well for many years. If this pattern of abuse against Ms. Bessinger continues, we will be forced to explore all legal options.

Sincerely,



Joseph S. Larisa, Jr.



Jim Peterson  
Judicial Watch

cc: Mr. Scott Barr, Principal [scott.barr@ppsd.org](mailto:scott.barr@ppsd.org)