

Texas Home School Coalition

Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas Tim Lambert, President * PO Box 6747 * Lubbock Texas 79493 (806) 744-4441 * Fax: (806) 744-4446 * E-mail: staff@thsc.org * www.thsc.org

VIA FACSIMILE

January 15, 2010

Mr. Phil Chavez Southside ISD 1460 Martinez Losoya Road San Antonio, Texas 78221

Mr. Chavez:

By way of introduction, let me explain that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators with almost 60,000 families on our mailing list, some of whom live in your district. Our mission is to serve the home school community and to protect the right of parents to teach their children at home.

I am writing in response to your communication regarding Ms. N____M___, a member of our association. On January 11, 2010, Ms. M____ gave written notice via certified mail of the withdrawal of her grandson, R____M___, which was delivered to your office on January 12. This notice was given after she had hand-delivered the same letter to Vice Principal Christopher Roache, who called your office for official policy on such a withdrawal. According to Mr. Roache, you said that Ms. M____ was required to make an appointment with officials at the Southside ISD administrative office to complete forms before official withdrawal could occur.

Ms. M_____ responded to this request by sending a letter of assurance, as recommended by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in a letter dated November 1, 2007, which I have enclosed for your review. Ms. Ronda Mann, your secretary, called Ms. M____ to ask why she had missed the appointment with the ISD to complete their forms; when Ms. M____ asked her to mail their request in writing, Ms. Mann refused and accused her of being uncooperative.

Mr. Chavez, according to the commissioner of education, it is not necessary for a parent or guardian to make an appearance at the school or complete school forms to disenroll her child if she has given written notice of withdrawal; neither is it required by law. Ms. M___ has given written notice of the withdrawal of her grandson and has cooperated with your requests in the manner recommended by the TEA. Please remove R___ M___ from your rolls. Should you or the district fail to do so and/or pursue truancy charges of thwarting compulsory attendance laws against Ms. M___ or her grandson, we will take legal action against you and/or the district.

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Sincerely,

Tim hamlest

Tim Lambert

Enclosure: Commissioner Letter

cc: Ms. N____M___; Dr. Juan Antonio Jasso, Superintendent, Southside ISD; Ms. Monica Villarreal, Principal, Freedom Elementary School; Mr. Christopher Roache, Assistant Principal, Freedom Elementary School; Mr. Robert Scott, Commissioner of Education; State Senator Carlos Uresti; State Representative Joe Farias; Mr. Rick Agosto, State Board of Education; Texas home schoolers