



**Placentia-Yorba Linda
Unified School District**

Putting Kids First

1301 E. Orangethorpe Avenue
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Alex Cherniss, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Education
Marilyn Anderson
Leandra Blades
Carrie Buck
Todd Frazier
Shawn Youngblood

May 8, 2024

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Palicke,

I write you today not only as the superintendent of the Placentia Unified School District, but as a parent of three children who suffered significant hardship during the Covid pandemic. As an educational leader, I have spent years pushing back against uninformed and overly punitive Covid restrictions that truly damaged our kids. Government overreach in California led to schools being closed for far too long and while students were excluded from instruction for a variety of county mandated health orders and protocols.

I am compelled to write you today because I found the actions taken by Ms. Marilyn Anderson at the Board of Education meeting last night to be abhorrent. In her public board comments, she called out your family by stating that your case, Palicke vs. PYLUSD, etc. was dismissed. There was no legal or substantive reason for her to state this. To the best of my knowledge, she has never announced a legal case dismissal or a case update in a prior board report. Moreover, I have never seen a board member make this sort of public comment in board member reports in my 25 years in public education.

In fact, Ms. Anderson clearly violated Board Bylaw 9420, Board and Superintendent's Reports, which states:

2. Board Report: Board member discussion relative to conferences, workshops, meetings, school visitations and activities, and adjunct assignments, etc.

Clearly, the announcement of a case dismissal in her board comments violated the Brown Act as this topic was not agendaized and did not related to any of the aforementioned categories stipulated in BB 9420 for Board Reports.

I have no doubt that the purpose of her public statement, which immediately elicited a misguided public applause, was her way of gloating at the fact that your case was no longer relevant to her or to the school district. Her statement, and the subsequent applause at the expense of your son was truly shameful.

However, I can promise you that your family and your son are still relevant to me. I will continue to work to repair the toll that Covid restrictions have had on all our kids.

Respectfully,

Alex Cherniss, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools