



2000 RENAISSANCE PLAZA
230 NORTH ELM STREET
GREENSBORO, NC 27401

T 336.373.8850
F 336.378.1001
WWW.BROOKSPIERCE.COM

November 30, 2023

Ms. Emilia Beskind
119 East Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

Re: The Stefanik Family

Dear Ms. Beskind:

Our law firm represents the O'Neal School. I have read and reviewed the allegations in the most recent letter, which was undated but received by the addressees around November 16, 2023. I have directed the Board and school administrators to honor your spoliation request. Please be aware, however, that your understanding of the facts and circumstances described in your letter are not accurate.

There was, in fact, a scuffle between [REDACTED] Stefanik and another student in the Spring of 2023. The matter was investigated and appropriate action taken. Measures were put in place to respond to the actions of the students in keeping with the methods of resolution utilized by the O'Neal School. Despite those measures, the parents of [REDACTED] continued to make demands for expulsion of the other student. Disciplinary decisions of any student are made by the Head of School in his sole discretion, and no parent has the right under the contract to demand any particular discipline for any particular student.

In the spring of 2023, the O'Neal administration and faculty worked with the family to accomplish what should have been mutual goals: maintaining a safe and positive school community, and assuring that all students abide by the expectations for behavior of students in that school community. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] was not able to conduct himself honorably, truthfully and consistent with the rules for all students at O'Neal. Rather than working with the administration to try to help [REDACTED] see the importance of honor and integrity, the family refused to participate in those efforts. Consequently, [REDACTED] was asked to leave the school. The O'Neal School is an independent school, and by choosing to send a child to the O'Neal School, a family chooses through contract to be bound by the behavior and discipline decisions of the

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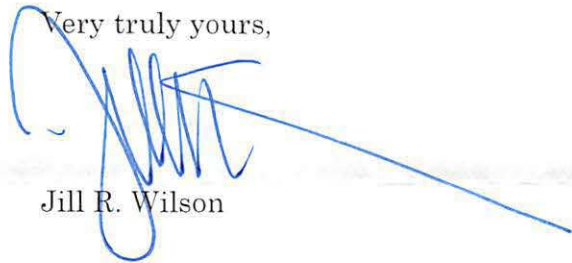
School and to cooperate with the School in implementing educational strategies. It was perfectly appropriate and lawful for the O'Neal School to dismiss [REDACTED] when it became clear that the family would not honor their portion of that agreement.

Your letter incorrectly states that [REDACTED]'s siblings were also forced out of the school. There is absolutely no evidence of any effort by O'Neal to remove them; in fact, the first O'Neal faculty knew of their withdrawal was from communications from the Stefaniks.

Even though the contract did not require a refund of tuition, the O'Neal School refunded the tuition paid by the Stefaniks for their children. The family was therefore placed in the same financial position they would have been in if they had not enrolled the children at the O'Neal School. Even further, despite the disciplinary challenges posed by [REDACTED], the O'Neal School did not record the separation of [REDACTED] from the School as an expulsion. Therefore, it is difficult to imagine what would be accomplished by any further action by your clients. They openly and blatantly refused to work with the school as their son's behavior escalated. There was neither a positive nor constructive relationship between the parents and the O'Neal administration, staff, or the broader O'Neal community. They refused to sign the behavior agreement or propose any changes to it. This refusal to cooperate with the school made a continuing positive relationship impossible.

Please direct all further communication regarding the O'Neal School to me. Do not contact my client directly.

Very truly yours,



Jill R. Wilson

JRW/df

cc: Stephen Later (Via Email: sflater@rmrattorneys.com)

John Elmore (Via Email: jelmore@onealschool.org)