



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RYAN M. WISE, DIRECTOR

July 7, 2016

Superintendent Thomas Ridder
Logan Magnolia Community School District
1200 N 2nd Ave
Logan, IA 51546-1060

Dear Superintendent Ridder:

Thank you for meeting with our team and arranging interviews on May 26th. After reviewing the documents you provided and speaking with staff and students, the Department of Education does not believe the district knowingly violated any state or federal laws. Our team does have concerns with the use of The Todd Becker Foundation during school hours to deliver content that may not have been appropriate for delivery at school. We strongly encourage you and your board members to consider taking one or more of the following actions to help repair the relationship with the community and students and ensure the district is respectful of all student backgrounds and beliefs. Recommended actions include:

- Conduct district-wide equity training on the importance of respecting all beliefs and on the district's nondiscrimination policies and grievance procedures. The district's Equity Coordinator(s) should be included in designing this training;
- Establish and/or revise policies and procedures for determining when and how to contract with an outside provider to conduct a student assembly or activity;
- Conduct extensive research on companies or individuals with whom you contract to provide school assemblies or activities;
- Conduct assemblies earlier in the day to ensure students have access to staff to discuss the message and intent of the assembly prior to dismissal of the school day;
- Clarify for all constituents (students, staff, parents, guardians, community members) the difference between after-school or evening programs and school sponsored activities;

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- Develop goals or outcomes for school-wide assemblies. Outcomes should align with the Iowa Core or American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Standards. Examples of such standards are: Respect alternative points of view, Recognize, accept, respect and appreciate individual differences;
- Establish processes for assessment and evaluation of the effect or outcome of student assemblies. This could be done by surveying attendees.

At this time no follow up to the Department of Education is required. Thank you for your time and cooperation. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Amy Williamson, Chief
Bureau of School Improvement

Cc:

Logan-Magnolia Board President
Ryan Wise, Director, Department of Education
David Tilly, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Education
Lane Plugge, Chief Administrator, Green Hills Area Education Agency
Cindy Butler, Administrative Consultant, Iowa Department of Education
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