

Failing Grade: National School Boards Association Issues Apology for Letter Inciting FBI Action

The National School Boards Association board of directors has issued an apology for a letter two of its top officials sent to President Biden that targeted some parents concerned about their children's school curriculum and classifying some of their actions as "a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes."

"As you all know, there has been extensive media and other attention recently around our letter to President Biden regarding threats and acts of violence against school board members," the NSBA wrote in its memo. "We wanted to write to you directly to address this matter. ... there was no justification for some of the language included in the letter."

The letter, sent Sept. 29 and signed by NSBA President Viola Garcia and CEO Chip Slaven, led to U.S. Attorney Gen. Merrick Garland's order that the FBI work with law enforcement to protect school board members, teachers and other public school employees. The letter followed chaos erupting at numerous school board meetings across the country as parents voiced concerns about issues including transgender policies, graphic sexual content, the teaching of critical race theory and mask mandates.

Parents and conservative lawmakers protested the letter and the resultant decision, as in this tweet from U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, who questioned Garland during a House Judiciary Committee oversight hearing Friday:

Attorney General Garland's only "evidence" that parents are "threatening" school board members?

The radically liberal National School Board Association told him so.

Seriously?!

– Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim_Jordan) October 21, 2021

The NSBA collaborated with the White House before it sent the letter requesting federal assistance, The Washington Free Beacon revealed this week after reviewing emails obtained by Parents Defending Education through public record requests:

The letter makes clear that the White House was aware of the letter before it was released, while raising questions about whether the White House colluded with the association on the letter to prompt federal action. The letter has sparked allegations that the Biden administration is trying to stifle dissent among parents who oppose mask mandates and the teaching of critical race theory at America's schools.

The NSBA failed to consult its own board of directors before sending the letter and did not consult or inform at least 19 state school board association chapter, per *The National Review*.

Conservative commentator Doug Powers tweeted out his thoughts on the NSBA decision:

The National School Board Association is very, very sorry... that they got caught colluding with the Biden DOJ.

– Doug Powers (@ThePowersThatBe) October 23, 2021

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