

**Legal  verwatch**  
**For Parents' School Rights**

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February 27, 2023

Jana Burk  
General Counsel  
Tulsa Public School District  
3027 S. New Haven Ave.  
Tulsa OK 74114

Re: TPS Denial of Jon Slinkard's Request to Speak

Dear Ms. Burk:

**Legal Overwatch for Parents' Rights** is writing to put you and Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) on notice that we consider your prior legal review and refusal of Mr. Slinkard's request to speak at tonight's school board meeting a breach of his First Amendment right of free speech. I understand that you cited TPS Policy 1301 as the reason for your refusal; however, you did not state how his topic would violate any provision of Policy 1301. Mr. Slinkard could have spoken on his son's current bullying situation, on the failure of the administrators to address his son's bullying and on his wife's recent termination as a result of her having stood up for her son against school administrators callous disregard of his complaint that he was being bullied, especially after he was beaten in the restroom, consistent with Policy 1301, so long as no other children's names were mentioned or specific school employees were named. Mr. Slinkard had to turn in his request to speak seven days prior to the school board meeting, which would have given you sufficient time to follow up with him to clarify that he understood the rules and a commitment to follow them. In addition, had he begun to discuss inappropriate specifics, the Board has the authority to interrupt his comments. Rather than use the least restrictive means to regulate his speech, you used Policy 1301 as a pretext to keep him from criticizing the practices of the Administration that has caused his son to be put in harm's way. This is a constitutional violation. A board cannot restrict a parent's right to speech just because they are afraid they will be criticized.

Consequently, your actions, in addition to the Policy's requirement that all requests to speak must be approved by legal counsel, will be addressed in consideration of future legal action.

Respectfully,

s/ Maria M Seidler

Maria Mercedes Seidler  
Chief Counsel

Cc: Jon Slinkard