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January 23, 2023

Dr. Vickie Cartwright
Superintendent
Broward County Public Schools
600 SE Third Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear Superintendent Cartwright,

This letter memorializes and confirms that you failed to comply—even by the most modest means—to turn over documents that our office previously requested from you.

On September 1, 2022, during the Office of Safe Schools' (OSS) first visit with you and other school officials, we requested that you provide our office with documents related to significant safety concerns that the findings released in the Final Report of the Twentieth Statewide Grand Jury (SWGJ) identified in your district. During our first visit, you agreed to provide OSS with the following documents:

1. Any documentation discussing the PROMISE referral tracking program including any of its corresponding data;
2. The district's annual budget since 2017;
3. Any documentation regarding how the district reported criminal incidents that occurred on campus over the past several years;
4. Any documentation regarding SESIR training;
5. A copy of the data from the 41,000 parents who responded to a school survey outlining concerns surrounding school safety;
6. Any documentation regarding how your faculty reports criminal incidents that have occurred on campus; and
7. Any documentation regarding the SMART bond program as it pertains to school safety.

This morning, by your own admission, you should have had better oversight to ensure that these documents were promptly forwarded to our attention. After making OSS wait well over four months, it speaks volumes that

you were able to provide most of these documents in just a matter of hours, during this morning's meeting.

As you well know, the SWGJ addressed significant deficiencies that occurred over the span of years, which, to put it mildly, were highly critical of several matters uncovered within your district.

We recognize that the issues identified by the SWGJ occurred well before you were named interim Superintendent in July 2021, and before your permanent placement in February 2022. But now, you are the Superintendent of the district, and certainly, on the heels of a highly publicized SWGJ regarding the safety and security of children in your district, one would naturally conclude that you would swiftly comply and produce these documents for our staff to review. But, as the SWGJ highlighted, the district's failure to produce documents appears to be a chronic issue.

Florida leads the nation in education freedom. Implicit in that freedom, is the right for children to receive a quality education in a safe and secure environment. To the extent that your continued non-compliance threatens the lives of children and staff attending school in your district, we intend to hold you fully accountable.

Should you have any questions, you may reach me at your convenience.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Strauss", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott R. Strauss

Vice Chancellor
Office of Safe Schools

CC:

Chair Lori Alhadeff
Vice Chair Debra Hixon
Brenda Fam, Esq.
Dr. Jeff Holness
Sarah Leonardi
Dr. Allen Zeman
Nora Rupert
Torey Alston
Daniel Foganholi