



MOLINE-COAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40

Superintendent Message

Dr. Savage shares information and addresses concerns about an after-school club at Jane Addams Elementary.

January 12, 2022

Attention Parents,

I wanted to take a moment and share some additional information regarding the after-school club you may have heard about. I know there are many mounting concerns and questions. I hear you and I understand. Here are some details which may answer some of your questions:

- The facility rental for this after-school activity was not generated by the district and is not affiliated with Jane Addams or the district. It is nothing that involves or impacts the school day.
- A parent from within our district reached out to the national after-school satan club, informing them that Jane Addams Elementary School, in Moline, offers a child evangelism fellowship club and asked that they bring their program to that school as well, to offer parents a choice of different viewpoints.
- No teachers from Jane Addams, or any other district teacher, is involved.
- Flyers were not distributed to all students. A total of 30 flyers were sent to Addams by the organization to be placed in the lobby. Flyers and promotional materials for



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facility rentals that are religious in nature, qualify for lobby display only. The flyers were on a table in the lobby and that is what some students picked up.

- Board of Education policy allows for community use of our facilities.
- The district approves many facility use agreements with local churches.
- Since we have allowed religious entities to rent our facilities after school hours, we are not permitted to discriminate against different religious viewpoints.
- To illegally deny their organization (viewpoint) to pay to rent our publicly funded institution, after school hours, subjects the district to a discrimination lawsuit, which we will not win, likely taking thousands upon thousands of tax-payer dollars away from our teachers, staff, and classrooms.
- Parents can choose which after-school facility rental activities in which they wish their kids to participate and must sign a permission slip. This includes the Good News Christian Club, Boys and Girl Scouts, and so on. This means any student choosing to partake in this activity would need parent permission.

I know how distressing this has become and I hope these additional details have answered some of your questions.

Thank you,

Rachel Savage, Superintendent, Moline-Coal Valley Schools

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