

April 17, 2023

For Immediate Release:

Corey Wise confirms that a final settlement has been reached with the Douglas County School District and Douglas County Board of Education Members Becky Myers, Michael Peterson, Christy Williams, and Kaylee Winegar. Mr. Wise filed charges of unlawful practices with the Colorado Civil Rights Division and Colorado Department of Labor and Employer after Myers, Peterson, William, and Winegar unlawfully terminated him without cause for advocating for students with disabilities and minority youth, in violation of Mr. Wise's first amendment and due-process rights and multiple state and federal civil rights laws. The manner of his termination was also ruled by a court to have been a violation of Colorado's Sunshine Laws.

Douglas County School District paid Mr. Wise \$270,733.61 owed to him for the remainder of his Superintendent contract. It has additionally paid him \$562,000.00 to resolve all of Mr. Wise's claims stemming from his unlawful termination. As such, Douglas County School District has paid Mr. Wise \$832,733.61. Notably, 100% of the settlement money paid to him was through the Douglas County School Board's insurance policies, and no funds were diverted from the County's schools or students.

The not so thinly veiled discriminatory and retaliatory animus exhibited by Board Members Myers, Peterson, William, and Winegar towards historically vulnerable and disenfranchised students in the district and their advocates has resulted in real harm to Douglas County's students and their quality of education. Sadly, these individuals have put their own political aspirations and plotting over the well-being and success of students and families in the district.

Mr. Wise has always cared first and foremost about the students of Douglas County – each and every one of them, not just some of them. His entire multi-decade career has been dedicated to Douglas County schools. He is not a politician. He has never run for office. He is an educator. And proud of his sacrifice to the school district. Hopefully, his story sheds light on the dangers of politicizing student education and spreading misinformation about students, personnel, curriculum, and school policies.

Board Members put their success over the success of students, their success over the success of the school district, and their success over the success of the community. In so doing, they have destroyed trust between community members, engendered hate within our county, and degraded the quality of education for our students. The Douglas County School District needs change. Mr. Wise calls on voters to inspire that change at the ballot box, and elect Board Members who prioritize students and staff over their own interests.

Mr. Wise also thanks the many dedicated school administrators, teachers, and staff he has come to know who continue to put students and their education first. He knows teachers make all the difference. He urges the Douglas County School District to continue to emphasize educational

equity and success for all students. More than anything, he wants to thank all those in the school system and community who supported him and continue to focus on what is just and right.

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