IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

JULIE HENN, LISA MACK, AND LILY ROWE BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Order No. OR 21-13

<u>ORDER</u>

Board of Education Members Julie Henn (Vice Chair), Lisa Mack, and Lily Rowe alleging that they have "hidden, deleted and blocked [her] free speech on their Board of Education associated social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Messenger)" in violation of her First Amendment rights. In also makes various other allegations regarding Ms. Henn, including that Ms. Henn has publically made "slanderous allegations" against in the supervision of the statements in her capacity as a board member without the local board's approval; and that she has a pattern in which she "will publically criticize and damage the reputation of individuals who disagree with her beliefs and agenda."

COMAR 13A.01.05.12(B)(1) requires that the request for the State Board to issue removal charges "shall set forth in a detailed affidavit, with all supporting documentation, the factual basis to support a statutory ground for removal." Before the State Board issues charges to begin a removal proceeding, it must assess whether the information before it is factually and legally sufficient. COMAR 13A.01.05.12(E). A factually sufficient request shall (1) be made by a person who has personal knowledge of the facts supporting the request and reason to believe they are true and (2) state the act or acts complained of in concise language, with a detailed description of the date, location, and nature of each act. COMAR 13A.01.05.12(E)(3). A legally sufficient request shall create a reasonable belief that the actions committed could constitute a ground for removal from office. COMAR 13A.01.05.12(E)(4). Pursuant to Education Art. §3-2B-08(a), the State Board may remove a member of the Baltimore County Board of Education for immorality; misconduct in office; incompetency; willful neglect of duty; or failure to attend, without good cause, at least 75 percent of the scheduled meetings of the local board in any one calendar year.

request for removal contains no affidavit as required by COMAR 13A.01.05.12(B)(1). Because there is no affidavit, the request for removal is facially deficient and must be denied.

Therefore, it is this 7th day of December 2021, by the Maryland State Board of Education, ORDERED, that request to issue charges for removal of Julie Henn, Lisa Mack and Lily Rowe as members of the Baltimore County Board of Education is denied.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Signature on File:

Clarence C. Crawford President