

# Determined Mom Seeks State Relief Against Stillwater Area Schools (ISD 834)

Stillwater, Minnesota – 26 June 2023 – Catherine Hobbs, a determined mom, has filed a formal complaint against Stillwater Area Schools (ISD 834) at the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for relief. She had requested to see all of the school district's Ethnic Studies class instructional materials under the MN Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. 13) twenty-two months ago. The district failed to present the promised materials for viewing at a meeting scheduled for that purpose after 15 months of preparing.

According to Minnesota Statute 13, the Data Practices Act, Catherine Hobbs has the right to see the educational materials, and the school district is obligated to answer in a timely manner.

Mike McCarthy, on behalf of Fixing Stillwater Schools (FSS), said, "Two school years later is not timely. Our schools are a unit of government. Public employees conducting public duties must be subject to timely public scrutiny. The school board promised access to classroom materials."

Jessica Johnson, also of FSS, added, "If the school board and administration are proud of what they are doing and achieving in our classrooms, they should certainly share that readily with parents and the community. We are glad to help."

Fixing Stillwater Schools partnered with Educational Standards of America (ESA) to seek relief for Mrs. Hobbs. "ESA is proud to stand with local parents like Mrs. Hobbs and groups like FSS to help them engage with their schools or defend their rights under the law," said David Benson-Staebler, CEO of Educational Standards of America (ESA). FSS is represented before OAH by Tad Jude who serves on the ESA Board of Directors.

Benson-Staebler, continued, "It should not be controversial for parents to see educational materials before they're in their kid's hands. It is shocking that two years later this material is still not disclosed. This is an increasingly widespread problem in Minnesota."

For more information on using the MN Data Practices Act, visit Fixing Stillwater Schools at [www.mn834.org](http://www.mn834.org) and Education Standards of America at [www.mnstandards.org](http://www.mnstandards.org).

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