

## **PARTIAL ADMIN NOTES:**

11.26.24:

- It was shared that people feel uncomfortable with a crucifix that is in Ms. Castro's room, it was reported to Mr. Mazzei. Also shared that she is using words like "you need Jesus" or "sinner"
  - 11.27 - Mr. Mazzei noticed that there was one, about 10-12 inches in height on a ledge next to Ms. Castro's desk
- Mr. Mazzei reached out to Maryellen Manning for guidance: have a meeting with pertinent information after Thanksgiving, not seek to understand/disciplinary
  - Mazzei pulled from a few sources to use as talking points/evidence for the meeting

11.27.24:

- A student came to Mr. Mazzei sharing that she feels she is being treated differently
- She shared that Ms. Castro is using words like "Jesus," "Poppa God," "liar," "sinner" in interactions with students
  - Student is frustrated that she feels that her mother is getting negative calls and they are not fully truthful
  - Student also feeling like she is being ignored in the classroom

12.3.24:

- The following email was sent to Ms. Castro for a meeting on 12.6 about the cross that is displayed in her classroom:

*Hi Ms. Castro,*

*I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out to discuss a concern that has been brought to my attention regarding a cross displayed in your classroom. Please know that this meeting is non-disciplinary in nature and is intended to review district policies to ensure clarity and consistency.*

*If you would like, you are welcome to bring a union representative to the meeting for support. I have scheduled the meeting for Friday at 2:15 in my office. Please confirm and share if you would like to bring your union representative so that I can ensure class coverage for Mrs. Pagan.*

*Thank you for your understanding and professionalism as we address this matter together.*

*Thanks,*

## PROVIDED EMAIL FROM ADMIN

**From:** [REDACTED]@csdnb.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2024 12:26 PM

**To:** Mazzei, Andrew <mazzei@csdnb.org>; Pagan, Jennifer <paganj@csdnb.org>

**Subject:** Concern

Hi Mr. Mazzei and Ms. Pagan,

Students have informed me that Ms. Castro is making religious references in class that are unrelated to the content. I am aware she has a cross displayed in class but more than once students have expressed she has made comment such as

1. You'll be forgiven for your sins(paraphrasing: I do not know the exact words spoken)
2. You need Jesus

I'm concerned because this is a violation between the separation between church and state, secondly, I'm not a Christian and it does make me uncomfortable she keeps a cross up in her room when shouldn't have religious items at school unless it's related to the curriculum. Also, we have students that are not Christian and they have voiced that they are not comfortable with being told about needing Jesus.

I've never had to bring up an issue of a colleague's religious preference to administration. This is out of my wheelhouse. As someone who has religious trauma I'm more concerned about students being subjected to someone else's religious ideologies out of the context of the curriculum. As parent of Jewish children, I most definitely would be upset if I heard that their instructor was saying this to them.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]