

## **Fight For Schools**

### **Petition for Removal of Loudoun County School Board Member Atoosa Reaser**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code section 24.2-233 states in pertinent part: “Upon petition, a circuit court may remove from office any elected officer or officer who has been appointed to fill an elective office, residing within the jurisdiction of the court ... [f]or neglect of duty, misuse of office, or incompetence in the performance of duties when that neglect of duty, misuse of office, or incompetence in the performance of duties has a material adverse effect upon the conduct of the office.”

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2021, Beth Barts posted to a private, viewpoint restricted Facebook group of over 600 members, which included Atoosa Reaser, Barts, and four other members of the Loudoun County School Board, that she was “very concerned” that a movement against the radical “critical race theory” philosophy was “gaining support” and that she wanted to “call out statements and actions that undermine our stated plan to end systemic racism.”

**WHEREAS**, in response to Beth Barts’s call to action, several members of the Facebook group began a campaign to target and harass Loudoun County parents and others opposed to the critical race theory philosophy, including efforts to:

- *Gather information (list of residents who are in charge of the anti-CRT movement)*
- *Infiltrate (create fake online profiles and join these groups to collect and communicate information, hackers who can either shut down their websites or redirect them to pro-crt/anti-racist informational websites)*
- *Spread information (expose people publicly, create online petitions, create counter-mailings)*

**WHEREAS**, in response to the campaign of targeted harassment sparked by Beth Barts’s March 12 Facebook post, Atoosa Reaser took no action to report the campaign to law enforcement, inform her constituents that were targeted, publicly denounce the campaign, or fulfill the obligations of the school board under open meetings laws when a quorum of school board members has convened.

**WHEREAS**, Reaser did not leave the Facebook group, despite a Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office investigation, and was present in the group with two other school board members when the suspension of a teacher and his subsequent lawsuit against Loudoun County Public Schools were being discussed by Barts and others in the group.

**WHEREAS**, Reaser was also a member of a second closed, viewpoint restricted Facebook group called “Loudoun Parents, Teachers and Staff for Evidence-Based Safe Schooling,” where school board members frequently discussed policies around opening and closing schools; even after these removal efforts began, Reaser and four other school board members have remained in the group.

**WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2021, a 14-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in a bathroom at Stone Bridge High School, and the alleged assailant was arrested. Despite Reaser’s at least general knowledge of the alleged assault, the alleged assailant was transferred to a different school within Loudoun County while awaiting trial and allegedly committed a sexual assault on another girl.

**WHEREAS**, Reaser has routinely limited the First Amendment rights of speakers and listeners by shutting down public comment and putting in place rules to prevent speakers based on their viewpoint.

**WHEREAS**, as a school board member, Atoosa Reaser is subject to the Loudoun County Code of Conduct for School Board Members, and has been “entrusted ... with the educational development of the children and youth of this community” including the safety of such children and youth and has a duty, among other things, to “render effective and creditable service to [her] constituents ... [t]o welcome and encourage active cooperation by Loudoun County residents ... [and] to strive step by step toward ideal conditions for most effective school board service to [her] community.”

**WHEREAS**, Atoosa Reaser did nothing to stop targeted online harassment against members of the Loudoun County community using their Constitutional right to Free Speech, including harassment against those who oppose critical race theory.

**WHEREAS**, Atoosa Reaser has failed to prioritize education per the requirements of Article VIII of the Virginia Constitution, which requires an “educational program of high quality” be “established and continually maintained,” and instead focused board attention on open bathroom policies, renaming schools, removing class rank, issuing special proclamations, improving weight rooms, changing attendance zones, and other issues unrelated to the core issue of a safe environment that is focused on an educational program of high quality.

**WHEREAS**, Atoosa Reaser has shown no indication that she intends to conform her future actions to applicable laws or policies designed to foster constructive dialogue between members of the community and the school board, put safety and educational excellence over political agendas, comply with open meetings or freedom of information act requirements, and, therefore, has demonstrated a wanton neglect of duty, misuse of her office, and incompetence in the performance of her duties that has a material adverse effect on her conduct.

**THEREFORE**, we the undersigned registered voters of Loudoun County ask that the Loudoun County Circuit Court immediately suspend Atoosa Reaser from the Office of School Board Member upon the filing of this petition, as allowed for by Virginia Code section 24.2-236, and subsequently set a trial for her removal.

*In signing this Petition, each signatory affirms and represents, under penalty of perjury that he/she has read and understands the foregoing allegations, is over the age of eighteen, a resident and registered voter in the Algonkian District of Loudoun County, and is in fact the person whose name that signatory purports to be, and the signatory's signature below is the genuine signature of the person that signatory purports to be. In addition, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 24.2-235, this petition is signed by the person or persons making it under penalties of perjury.*

<b>Printed Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Full Residential Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Last 4 of Social Security Number (Optional)</b>

**AFFIDAVIT**

Commonwealth of Virginia, County of Loudoun:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, swear or affirm that (i) my full residential address in the Commonwealth of Virginia is \_\_\_\_\_, (ii) I am not a minor, (iii) I am not a felon whose voting rights have not been restored; (iv) I have witnessed the signature of each person who signed this page; and (v) I consent to the jurisdiction of the courts of Virginia in resolving any disputes concerning the circulation of petitions, or signatures contained therein. I understand that falsely signing this Affidavit is a felony punishable by a maximum fine up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment up to ten years.

\_\_\_\_\_, signed \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of a notary.  
 Circulator Signature Date

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by  
 (circulator name) \_\_\_\_\_.

(Notary Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Notary Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration #

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Commission Expiration