

Carroll ISD Board Meeting

June 10, 2024

President's Report – Office of Civil Rights Update

I have an update on the four complaints currently under review by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

As a recap from our May 15th board meeting:

- The district received a letter from OCR on May 6, 2024, that included a “proposed resolution of action items” relating to the four complaints. OCR gave the district 90 days to sign the proposal.
- However, OCR did not provide the district a “Statement of the Case”, which they are required to prepare, in accordance with their own Case Processing Manual (Section 303(d)).
- The “Statement of the Case” is to include such items as; the allegations raised in the complaint, an explanation of pertinent legal standards, relevant background information, a statement of each allegation and the findings of fact for each, including analysis of evidence on which the findings were based, conclusions for each allegation, and an explanation of how the terms of the proposed resolution are aligned with the evidence.
- The district has requested this document on three separate occasions and OCR has refused to provide it in every instance.
- The latest request was made by me and Dr. Ledbetter, along with our district and board legal counsel via a video conference call on May 29th with the two OCR attorneys assigned to our case, along with their supervisor.
- OCR once again denied our request and insisted they would only provide their findings and conclusions (i.e., Statement of the Case) after the district agrees to sign the proposed resolution.
- So just to be clear, the Office of Civil Rights insists that the district sign a document, agreeing to certain demands, before articulating to the district what their findings and conclusions are and the evidence that was used to align with those findings and conclusions.
- Further, there is no legal statute prohibiting OCR from providing us this document, at this juncture in the process, nor anywhere does it prohibit OCR from providing us the document in their own Case Processing Manual.
- So what happens now? If the district decides they are at an impasse and does not enter into a resolution agreement with OCR within the 90-day deadline, the next step in the

process, in accordance with OCR's Case Processing Manual (Section 305), is OCR will prepare a "Letter of Impending Enforcement Action."

- The "Letter of Impending Enforcement Action", which OCR is required to send to the district, includes the "Statement of the Case" AND gives the district time to enter into negotiations, with OCR, if they so choose.
- Lastly, many in the legacy media, including some of our own residents, have claimed and have been quoted as saying that the Office of Civil Rights sending the district a list of demands means they have found civil rights violations in our district.
- That is simply not true. No one knows what they have found because they refuse to provide that to us.
- Nevertheless, the board plans to deliberate on this matter and provide another update to the community prior to the 90-day OCR deadline.

Cameron Bryan

President

Carroll ISD Board of Trustees