

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Court Judge Grants WPSD Board's Motion for Summary Judgment

Woodland Park, CO – 10/11/22 – The Woodland Park School District Board of Education is pleased to announce that on October 7th, Teller County District Court Judge Scott Sells granted the Board's Motion for Summary Judgment in the case filed by Erin O'Connell. Specifically, the Court found that the Board's meeting of April 13th cured any previous violation of the Colorado Open Meetings Law as related to Merit Academy. The Court additionally denied Erin O'Connell's request for her costs and attorneys fees in bringing the action and her request to essentially close a District charter school chosen by hundreds of students and families in Woodland Park.

The court's order effectively brings a conclusion to a nearly year-long effort to use the Open Meetings Law as a political weapon against the Board and its efforts to improve the quality of education in Woodland Park.

Vice President David Illingworth said, "I'm grateful for the time and thoughtful legal analysis that Judge Sells applied to this case. In the end, the court found that any previous mistake made by the Board had been corrected, and no other issues remained for the court to resolve. My thanks to our attorney Bryce Carlson, and to the entire team at Miller Farmer Law, for defending WPSD from a political suit that sought to close our new charter school and disenfranchise the hundreds of students enrolled there."

President David Rusterholtz said, "I would like to thank the vast majority of Teller County residents who have unwaveringly supported us through this difficult time. I ask those who have opposed this Board of Education's hard work to peacefully join us in working

together to make Woodland Park School District the top school for public education in Colorado."

About the Woodland Park School District Re-2

A Place of Becoming. Mission: Together, we embrace a culture where all learners are empowered to pursue intellectual, personal, and collective excellence.

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