



Lucas Local Schools

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April 30, 2020

Reverend El Akuchie
Richland Community Prayer Network

Mansfield, Ohio 44906

Dear Reverend El Akuchie,

Thank you for your letter of March 11, 2020 expressing your concerns about the practice of yoga at Lucas Schools. I apologize for the delay in responding. As you can imagine, keeping the District running during the COVID19 pandemic is the focus of most of my time these days. Your letter came shortly after correspondence between Pastor Dallas Waggle sent a list of questions about the same topic on March 2, 2020, to which I responded on March 3, 2020.

As a public school district, we are mindful of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and the prohibition of religious instruction. To that end, we must ensure that we are not doing anything that runs afoul of our obligations and appreciate your concerns. With that being said, I am confident that any form of yoga-like exercises our students may have participated in were strictly secular in nature and within constitutional bounds. Please further know that there is no official yoga class or yoga instruction at Lucas High School and no intent to change that.

I trust this explanation serves to allay your concerns.

Sincerely,

Bradley A. Herman
Superintendent,
Lucas Local School District