

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

BETHEL MINISTRIES, INC.,

*

Plaintiff,

*

v.

*

No. 1:19-cv-01853-SAG

DR. KAREN B. SALMON, *et al.*,

*

Defendants.

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* * * * *

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Plaintiff, Bethel Christian Ministries, Inc., and defendants, State Superintendent Dr. Karen B. Salmon; Matthew Gallagher, Chairman of the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (“BOOST”) Advisory Board; and BOOST Advisory Board members Marva Jo Camp, Linda Eberhart, Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Elizabeth Green, Beth Sandbower Harbinson, and Dr. A. Skipp Sanders, pursuant to the Court’s Revised Scheduling Order (ECF No. 66) submit the following joint status report:

1. The parties have completed discovery. The parties may issue requests for admissions before the May 7, 2021 deadline.
2. There are no pending motions.
3. Both sides intend to file dispositive pretrial motions for summary judgment. Pursuant to Local Rule 105.2.c, the parties agree that defendants will file their motion first.
4. The case will be tried without a jury. The parties anticipate that a trial would last two weeks.

5. Throughout discovery, counsel for the parties have conferred concerning the possibility of settlement. The parties discussed settlement and the conditions necessary to achieve a settlement during those conferences, including on January 26, 2021 and February 22, 2021. These discussions have included attorneys Paul Schmitt and Ryan Tucker for Plaintiff and assistant attorneys general Robert Scott, Ann Sheridan, and Justin Fine for Defendants. Counsel last discussed the possibility of settlement on March 3, 2021.

6. Defendants believe it would be helpful to refer this case for an ADR conference. Plaintiff notes that this case presents a question of whether Defendants can either require religious schools to change their beliefs or speech or exclude them from Maryland's benefit programs. Plaintiff is unclear about what benefit an ADR conference would provide in answering that question. However, Plaintiff will participate in any discussions suggested by the Court.

7. All of the parties do not consent to have a U.S. Magistrate Judge conduct all further proceedings in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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