

**Moms for Liberty - Moco communications with MoCo360 report, Em Espey
June 12, 2023-June 15, 2023**

On Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 10:42 AM Em Espey <em.espey@moco360.media> wrote:

Hey there Lindsey,

I'm a local news reporter who recently covered the protest at our local school board over the its policy re: LGBTQ-inclusive books. My editor is having me write a follow-up putting this in the context of the national debate around this topic. I wanted to reach out for comment from you directly as one of the protest organizers. Was wondering if you might have time to chat with me on the phone today for 5-10 minutes?

If not, perhaps you could answer my question via email—I'm specifically curious to know how Moms for Liberty came to be involved in the protest/this issue here in Montgomery County.

Let me know what you think! And if there's anyone else you think it'd be helpful for me to reach out to about this, do let me know.

Thanks in advance,

From: Moms for Liberty <momsforlibertymoco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 8:25:28 PM
To: Em Espey <em.espey@moco360.media>
Subject: Re: Press inquiry - protest at MCPS school board

I'm happy to comment via email. We had a lot of end of year school activities, so apologies for the delay.

What is your question specifically and happy to comment :)

Lindsey

From: [Em Espey](#)
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:46 AM
To: [Moms for Liberty](#)
Subject: RE: Press inquiry - protest at MCPS school board

Thanks for the quick response Lindsey! I understand only too well how busy the end of the school year can be—email comments are totally fine.

My specific questions:

- Can you tell me about how Moms for Liberty came to get involved with the school board protest that occurred earlier this month?
- In your opinion, is the underlying issue behind the protest something unique to Montgomery County, or is this something M4L has seen happen in other jurisdictions across/beyond Maryland? Why/why not?
- Is M4L planning any future protests in Montgomery County on this topic? If so, can you tell me more about that?
- Are there other topics or issues connected with Montgomery County Public Schools that M4L is interested in getting involved with, or is already involved with?
- Any other context/info you think it would be important for me to note about M4L and/or its activities in Montgomery County?

Thanks in advance for your help!

On Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 10:30 AM Em Espey <em.espey@moco360.media> wrote:

Good morning Lindsey!

Reaching back out to see if you might have time to provide responses to the questions below. We're hoping to publish by tomorrow morning, and I would love to make sure M4L's perspective is included where relevant.

From: [Moms for Liberty](#)

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 12:03 PM

To: [Em Espey](#)

Subject: Re: Press inquiry - protest at MCPS school board

Hey! Was just finishing it up.

questions:

- Can you tell me about how Moms for Liberty came to get involved with the school board protest that occurred earlier this month?
- [Moms for Liberty came to stand alongside Family Rights for Religious Freedom organization, as we have a similar mission to see the opt-out restored and the MCPS Board of Education to actually stand behind their religious policy - which states "When possible, schools should try to make reasonable and feasible adjustments to the instructional program to accommodate requests from students, or requests from parents/guardians on behalf of their students, to be excused from specific classroom discussions or activities that they believe would impose a substantial burden on their religious beliefs. Students, or their parents/guardians on behalf of their students, also have the right to ask to be excused from the classroom activity if the students, or their](#)

parents/guardians, believe the activity would invade student privacy by 4 calling attention to the student's religion. When a student is excused from the classroom activity, the student will be provided with an alternative to the school activity or assignment." (you can find it right from their own page below).

https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/students/rights/0854.22_ReligiousDiversityGuidelines_8.5x11_WEB.pdf

- In your opinion, is the underlying issue behind the protest something unique to Montgomery County, or is this something M4L has seen happen in other jurisdictions across/beyond Maryland? Why/why not?
- Montgomery County is one of the top counties in the United States to have 3 or more cities listed as the most diverse, it makes Montgomery County unique, with a makeup of multiple religions from across the globe. It is why the above policy was created. I believe this is unique to our county but believe we will begin to see this take place in other jurisdictions as those of religious faith and backgrounds start to stand together as one the moment the educational system started to push sexual identities and agendas onto the kids.
- Are there other topics or issues connected with Montgomery County Public Schools that M4L is interested in getting involved with, or is already involved with?
- We are not a book-banning, anti-LGBTQ organization (many of us have family members who stand behind us 100%). We are a local organization made up of parents, grandparents, community leaders, and religious leaders from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, our mission is to empower parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government, which is what our 14th Amendment calls for. We believe the parents have the right to determine what their child is learning and have a voice in their child's education. We will continue to stand and not back down from fighting for our kids.
- Any other context/info you think would be important for me to note about M4L and/or its activities in Montgomery County? I think the above states the important information that your readers need to know.

Lindsey

On Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 12:39 PM Em Espey <em.espey@moco360.media> wrote:

Thanks so much, Lindsey! I think one of my bullet points got lost in the shuffle—do you know if Moms for Liberty is coordinating a protest at the June 27 school board meeting? Is there any collaboration with the FRRF group?

From: Moms for Liberty

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:24 PM

To: Em Espey

Subject: Re: Press inquiry - protest at MCPS school board

At this point we do not have protest planned.

On Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 1:36 PM Em Espey <em.espey@moco360.media> wrote:

Thanks! I stumbled on an email newsletter that looks like it was sent out by your M4L chapter this morning inviting readers to attend an Interfaith Rally & March at school board headquarters on June 27. Is that not happening, then?

From: **Moms for Liberty** <momsforlibertymoco@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 3:31 PM

Subject: Re: Press inquiry - protest at MCPS school board

To: Em Espey <em.espey@moco360.media>

“Stumbled upon” is an interesting choice of words, Em. As I shared before, at this time we do not have a protest planned. Of course members of our chapter will be at the meeting, as we’ve been at every meeting since January 2023. Thank you for making us aware that you have additional contacts within our chapter. As such, I encourage you to continue using them as your primary and sole source for information about our chapter.

God Bless,
Lindsey