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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FILED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MAR 10 2025

JOHN D. HADDEN
CLERK

REV. DR. LORI WALKE, et al.,	)	
	)	
Petitioners,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 122,592
	)	
RYAN WALTERS, in his official Capacity as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, et al.,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

Rec'd (date) 3/10/25
Posted PE
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Distrib PE
Publish ____ yes ✓ no

ORDER OF STAY

Respondents Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), Rick Rose, Amanda Otis, and Brenda Hansel (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the OMES Respondents") have sought an order staying OMES's work in connection with Requests for Proposals (RFPs) issued on behalf of Respondents Ryan Walters and the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) to purchase 55,000 Bibles with certain characteristics for use in Oklahoma's 5th through 12th grade public school classrooms. Specifically, the OMES Respondents ask this Court to stay all work, including the processing or awarding of any contract in connecting with the Bible RFPs until this Court enters a final decision.

Twice now, Respondents Walters and OSDE have withdrawn the Bible RFPs at issue—i.e., the first Bible RFP being Solicitation #EV00000555/Requisition No.

2650015006 and the second being Solicitation #EV00000XXXX/Requisition No. 2650015185. Yet even when there was no pending Bible RFP, the OMES Respondents indicated that they desire a stay of any new request for the purchase of Bibles pending resolution of this matter.

Petitioners have joined the OMES Respondents in their request for a stay of the Bible RFPs, but Petitioners have also asked for their own stay of the Biblical Character Education RFP (i.e., Solicitation #EV00000647) and of any other action to implement or enforce the "Bible Education Mandate," including spending any state funds to purchase Bibles or biblical instructional materials or to further the "Mandate" in any other way. *See* Pet'rs' AAOJ & Pet. for Decl. & Inj. Relief & Writ of Mandamus or Prohibition ¶¶ 1–2, at 2 (wherein Petitioners define "the Bible Education Mandate"). The referenced Biblical Character Instruction RFP is still pending and requires all vendors to submit their bids by no later than March 20, 2025.

Respondents Walters and OSDE oppose all of the requested stays for various reasons. They specifically object to Petitioners' request for a stay and seek to strike those portions of Petitioners' supplemental brief and supplemental appendix filed March 4, 2025, that concern the Biblical Character Instruction RFP as being outside the scope of both this Court's February 11, 2025 Order and the Petitioners' original Petition. But the Biblical Character Education RFP fits squarely within the scope of

relief requested in the Petitioners' original Petition, which specifically asked for an injunction "barring Respondents from taking any action to implement or enforce the Bible Education Mandate, including spending any state funds to purchase Bibles . . . or to further the Mandate in any other manner." Pet'rs' AAOJ & Pet. for Decl. & Inj. Relief & Writ of Mandamus or Prohibition ¶ 122(b), at 47–48.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Respondent Walters and OSDE's motion to strike is hereby DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the OMES Respondents' request for stay is hereby GRANTED. The OMES Respondents' work on any new request by the OSDE for the purchase of Bibles is STAYED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioners' request for stay is hereby GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART. The OMES Respondents' work on the Biblical Character Instruction RFP (i.e., Solicitation #EV00000647) is STAYED. Petitioners' request to enjoin all Respondents from taking any other action to implement or enforce the Bible Education Mandate is deferred to the decisional stage.

DONE BY ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT this 10th day of March, 2025.

CHIEF JUSTICE