

August 2, 2019

Greetings Stokes School Community,

I hope that your summer has been safe and enjoyable. It's hard to believe that the first day of school is just a few weeks away. In the next couple of weeks the school will send you communication about your children's teachers, parents' orientation and school priorities for the coming school year.

I am writing today specifically to provide an update on a matter that many of you were made aware of in January 2019 regarding a parent from within our school community. A civil law suit has been filed against Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School by Ms. Nykia Braxton , a parent of two of our students. The Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School family is deeply disturbed by the false allegations made by this parent. The school vehemently denies these allegations.

Since 1998, Stokes School has earned the right to be ranked among the very best in the District of Columbia. The school was founded on the promise that we would educate and provide a safe school environment to our students. Over the years, we have kept that promise and we have helped enrich the lives of thousands of children and their families.

In her very brief time as a parent of Stokes School students, Ms. Braxton has repeatedly disrupted classes during school hours and verbally confronted and attempted to intimidate school personnel. Her aggressive behavior and confrontations with staff left some of our parents, teachers, staff members, and board members feeling unsafe. As a result of her disruptions of school proceedings and in the interest of the safety of our students and staff, in February of this year the leadership of Elsie Whitlow Stokes served Ms. Braxton with legal notice, as provided for by the laws of the District of Columbia, barring her from entering school property. The child's father's ability and opportunity to attend all school events, as well as his access to the school, were not impacted or restricted in any way.

Though disappointed by the false allegations made by Ms. Braxton, we stand by our reputation for excellence and caring, and look forward to having the opportunity to prove these allegations to be completely without merit.

Nothing about this lawsuit will diminish our enthusiasm and excitement for the start of this new school year, and we look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika Bryant".

Erika Bryant
Executive Director