

## **EXHIBIT A – JOINT STATEMENT**

The Pittsville School District and Amanda Vogel have collaborated on this joint statement to clarify recent events and to move forward constructively.

The parties agree that parents have a First Amendment right to speak openly and advocate for their children. The District further acknowledges that Ms. Vogel's social media post constituted protected speech and did not amount to harassment, intimidation, or defamation. Ms. Vogel reiterates that her post was intended to explain her family's decision to homeschool and to speak more broadly about inclusion and the experiences some families face, not to target the Pittsville School District or its staff. She and her family value the Pittsville community and appreciate the relationships they have built over the years.

Both parties agree that any threats directed at the District, its administrators, staff, or advisors that resulted from the social media post are inappropriate and inconsistent with civil public discourse. Disagreements should be resolved through lawful public debate and established legal processes. For clarity, Ms. Vogel did not encourage or solicit outside commentary directed at the District, and after concerns were raised, she took steps to limit engagement on the post.

In order to maintain the safety of students, staff, and the community, and the District decided to consult with the Chief of Police, who serves as the District's School Resource Officer, upon receipt of perceived threats related to Ms. Vogel's social media post. The Chief of Police subsequently made contact with Ms. Vogel via two visits to her home to discuss those safety concerns. During those interactions, he acknowledged that Ms. Vogel had a First Amendment right to her post, but also conveyed that the District had conferred with legal counsel and that she would receive a cease-and-desist letter if the post was not removed. Upon reflection, the District recognizes that involving law enforcement in this manner may have been perceived by Ms. Vogel as intimidating, and agrees that direct communication from District officials would have been a more appropriate approach.

The District confirms that the cease-and-desist letter dated December 19, 2025, is hereby withdrawn and rescinded in full, and that no legal action will be pursued against Ms. Vogel based on her protected speech.

Both parties agree that open communication, respect for parents' voices, and adherence to constitutional principles are essential to maintaining trust between schools and families. Going forward, the District commits to addressing parental concerns through direct communication, and both parties are committed to working collaboratively in the best interests of all students and the Pittsville community.