

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Maggie A. Cook
President
Mentor Board of Education
6451 Center St.
Mentor, OH 44060

Dear President Cook,

I write to you today, not only as a United States Senator, but as a parent, which is the most important job I will ever have. I am absolutely repulsed to learn that a 15-year-old Mentor High School student was arrested last week on child pornography charges.¹ Yet, even worse, I am revolted to learn that you may have allowed a potential sex offender, who was charged with 36 felony counts, including pandering sexually oriented material involving a minor, back onto Mentor Public School property.²

As not only the senior Senator of our great state, but as a dad myself, the most important thing I can do is protect Ohio's children. You are a mother yourself, who sent your own children to Mentor High School, I cannot imagine how you could entertain the prospect of your children attending school with an alleged criminal, arrested on child pornography charges.³ How, as Mentor Board of Education President could you let this happen? And, apparently, the best you could do to alleviate concerns of both the students and parents was send an email to parents where it was indicated that a number of steps were taken to ensure that students and staff are able to operate without additional disruption.⁴ This is absolutely unacceptable.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time I have written to you about my sincere concerns regarding the Mentor Board of Education.⁵ You showed almost no interest in having a conversation, which is consistent with what I have heard from Mentor Public Schools' parents about your disregard for their concerns as well. From your fellow school board members disregard of President Trump's Executive Orders to now inviting potential sex offenders into Mentor Public Schools, I am deeply concerned on behalf of all parents of Mentor Public Schools and the taxpayers in Lake County that you are unable to faithfully keep Ohio's most vulnerable population safe. Children deserve to attend school without fear that there are sexual predators in their classrooms.

¹ <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-lake/mentor-teen-arrested-on-child-porn-charges>.

² <https://x.com/libsoftiktok/status/1981760541757456632?s=61>; <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-lake/mentor-teen-arrested-on-child-porn-charges>; *see also* Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2950.

³ <https://www.mcook4mentorschools.com/home>.

⁴ <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-lake/mentor-teen-arrested-on-child-porn-charges>.

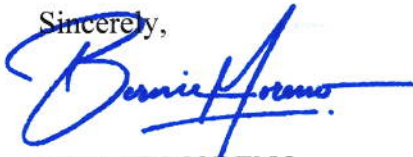
⁵ Letter to the Honorable Maggie A. Cook, February 26, 2025, <https://www.moreno.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Letter-to-Mentor-School-Board-President-Maggie-Cook-February-26.pdf>.

Please respond to my office no later than five days of receipt of this letter with the answers to the following questions:

- (1) Was this 15-year-old allowed to enter Mentor Public School's property following his arrest on 36 felony counts, including children pornography charges and pandering sexually oriented material involving a minor?
- (2) Do you think that allowing a potential sex offender back on public school property ensures that "students and staff are able to operate without additional disruption"?
- (3) Please provide the exact referenced email that was sent to parents and any other communication regarding this potential sexual predator.
- (4) Please provide an explanation of how allowing an individual who has been charged with such sex crimes on public school property is not only legal but also safe for the other Mentor Public School students and community.

Please respond to my office no later than ten business days of receipt of this letter with the answers to the following questions:

Sincerely,



BERNIE MORENO
United States Senator