

**Release Date:**

29 November, 2023

**COBB COMMUNITY  
CARE COALITION**

# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cobb County School District's Internal Documents and Communications Show Various Tactics Used to Silence and Intimidate Dissenting Students, Caregivers, and Community Members**

**Smyrna, GA** - Internal documents and internal communications (the results of an open records request) will be released and discussed by The Cobb Community Care Coalition at the pavilion at Taylor Brawner Park on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 4:15 PM EST.



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# **2023**

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Records show that multiple members of district leadership expended tax funds on coordinated efforts of repression and retaliation against local citizens' organized plans to voice dissent. District leadership actively sought to align themselves with conservative groups to coordinate a counterprotest presence to repress the effects of a planned, announced Replace Ragsdale Rally. After waiting in an orderly line for three hours, public comment was moved outside last-minute, which led to a chaotic, combative sign-up process where multiple people were injured. When asked for rationale, the district provided evasive responses to all who inquired.

"I wanted to know why signup was relocated and after receiving an insufficient answer, I placed an open records request to learn more - and, in the search for the truth, I found evidence of multiple formal efforts to repress dissidents", said Jennifer Susko, former CCSD School Counselor, a regular speaker at CCSD board meetings, involved community member, and founding member of the Cobb Community Care Coalition. "We believe in transparency and the community deserves to know how our tax dollars are being wasted on efforts to silence and intimidate our community and especially students, whom the district regularly purports to serve," she concluded.

*The Cobb Community Care Coalition is a new group, organized earlier this year, comprised of parents, students, and community members in Cobb County who believe the acceleration of racism, bigotry, and censorship in CCSD as well as the District's negligence around gun violence require a strong, coordinated resistance to demonstrate the power of the people to effect positive change. While the voice of hate is louder than ever, we push to ensure that harm perpetuated by CCSD against marginalized students and families will never occur without a louder response and advocacy from us until we reach our ultimate goal of new leadership that will not ignore such gravely important issues.*

Please Direct All Questions or Requests for More Information to: [cobbcareco@gmail.com](mailto:cobbcareco@gmail.com).

# BIO

## COBB COMMUNITY CARE COALITION

The **Cobb Community Care Coalition**, established earlier this year by co-founders Micheal Garza, Jennifer Susko, Melissa Marten, and Andrew Cole, emerged from their participation in school board meetings and a collective decision to formally engage. Comprising parents, students, and community members from Cobb County, their focus lies in addressing racism, bigotry, censorship, and the district's neglect of gun violence within CCSD. They unite to effect positive change and strongly oppose the harm inflicted on marginalized students and families. Their unified voice counters hate and advocates for new leadership that prioritizes these critical issues, aiming to compel CCSD to prioritize the community's well-being.

### MICHEAL GARZA

Post 4 resident, parent of an elementary student in Cobb, PTA co-president, community organizer, former Democratic candidate for Georgia House District 46, and co-founder of Cobb Community Care Coalition.

### JENNIFER SUSKO

Post 6 resident, graduate of the Cobb County School District, community organizer, and co-founder of Cobb Community Care Coalition. She was a Cobb school counselor of 8 years before resigning her position in protest over the school district's ban on the use of anti-racism materials in the classroom.

### MELISSA MARTEN

Post 4 resident, parent of elementary and middle school students in Cobb, community organizer, and co-founder of Cobb Community Care Coalition.

### ANDREW COLE

Post 7 resident, parent of two upcoming Cobb students, graduate of the Cobb County School District, and co-founder of Cobb Community Care Coalition.



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