



BOARD MEETING MEMORANDUM

Board Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

From: Aron Borowiak, Superintendent

Re: Participation in Social Media Mass Action Litigation

Attachment(s) Agreement and FAQ

Agenda Location: Consideration to Approve: Action Items

Rationale:

The administration is requesting Board authorization for Antioch Community Consolidated School District 34 to participate in nationwide litigation involving several social media companies, including entities associated with Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube.

Although this matter is sometimes described generally as a class action lawsuit, it is structured as mass action litigation. Each participating school district files its own individual claim, which is then coordinated with similar cases pending in federal court. Each district retains the right to review and approve any settlement offered specifically to that district.

The litigation alleges that social media companies designed, marketed, and operated their platforms in ways that contributed to the youth mental health crisis and negatively affected school districts' ability to serve students. The claims include allegations involving harmful algorithms, ineffective age-verification practices, deceptive marketing, cyberbullying, destructive social media trends, and content that may contribute to anxiety, depression, unhealthy social comparison, self-harm, and other student mental health concerns. The litigation further alleges that school districts have incurred additional costs for mental health professionals, student education, staff training, interventions, and property damage associated with these impacts.

The litigation seeks compensation for qualifying past and future district expenses, including mental health services, prevention and educational programming, staffing, and property-related costs. It also seeks injunctive relief intended to require social media companies to modify certain practices, including marketing strategies, algorithms, and age-verification processes. There is no guarantee that the District will receive a settlement or other financial recovery.



ANTIOCH COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

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Legal Representation and Financial Terms

The District would be represented by Frantz Law Group, APLC, with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroft, LLP serving as co-counsel and liaison to the District.

The representation would be provided on a contingency-fee basis. Under the proposed agreement:

The District would not be responsible for attorneys' fees or litigation costs unless a monetary recovery is obtained. Frantz Law Group would receive 25% of the District's gross monetary recovery. Litigation costs and expenses advanced by counsel would be reimbursed from the District's recovery after attorneys' fees are deducted. If no monetary recovery is obtained, the District would not be responsible for attorneys' fees or costs. District general funds would not be obligated to pay the contingency fee.

Participation is expected to require a limited commitment of District staff time, primarily to assist with gathering relevant documentation and responding to written questions. Counsel estimates that a District representative may be required to devote approximately ten hours, although the actual commitment could vary.

Recommendation/Motion:

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve Antioch Community Consolidated School District 34's participation in the Social Media Mass Action Litigation and approve the Attorney-Client Fee Contract with Frantz Law Group, APLC.