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MICHAEL KUCH, SR., Individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the ESTATE OF ADRIANA KUCH, and as the parent and natural guardian of ETHAN KUCH, and SARAH KUCH,

Plaintiffs

v.

TRIANAFILLOS PARLAPANIDES, IRENE MAROUSIS, DARRYL HEALE, THOMAS GALLAHUE, JENNIFER MULLINS, ANGELLO MAZZUCA, CENTRAL REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, JOHN AND JANE DOES 1-20, and/or ABC CORPORATIONS 1-20,
Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: OCEAN COUNTY
DOCKET NO:

CIVIL ACTION

**COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND,
CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 4:5-1, and
DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL**

The plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., Individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch, residing in the Township of Berkeley, County of Ocean, and State of New Jersey, complain of the defendants as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. At all times relevant, plaintiff Michael Kuch, Sr., was the father and natural guardian of and lived with his daughter, Adriana Kuch. On February 21, 2023, Michael Kuch, Sr., was appointed as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of Adriana Kuch. (Administration Short Certificate, **Exhibit A**; Letter of Administration ad Prosequendum, **Exhibit B**.)

2. At all times relevant, plaintiff Sarah Kuch is and was married to Michael Kuch, Sr. She also was the stepmother of and resided with Adriana Kuch.

3. At all times relevant, plaintiff Ethan Kuch was the brother of and resided with Adriana Kuch. Michael Kuch, Sr., is his father and natural guardian.

4. As of February 1, 2023, Adriana Kuch was a student of Central Regional High School.

5. Defendant Central Regional Board of Education (referred to herein as the "School Board") is a public entity organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey with its offices at 509 Forest Hills Parkway, Bayville, New Jersey.

6. At all times relevant, the School Board had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students within the Central Regional School District, including students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

7. At all times relevant, the School Board had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

8. At all times relevant, the School Board had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

9. At all times relevant, defendant Triantafillos Parlapanides was the Superintendent of Schools for the Central Regional School District and was acting in that capacity at the time of the incidents set forth in this Complaint. As the Superintendent of Schools, defendant Parlapanides had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students within the Central Regional School District, including students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

10. At all times relevant, defendant Parlapanides had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

11. At all times relevant, defendant Parlapanides had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train Central Regional School District staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

12. At all times relevant, defendant Irene Marousis was the Principal of Central Regional High School within the Central Regional School District and was acting in that capacity at the time of the incidents set forth in this Complaint. As the School Principal, defendant Marousis had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

13. At all times relevant, defendant Marousis had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

14. At all times relevant, defendant Marousis had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

15. At all times relevant, defendant Darryl Heale was the Anti-bullying specialist and Assistant Principal at Central Regional High School, and was acting in that capacity at the time of the incidents set forth in this Complaint. As the Anti-bullying specialist and Assistant Principal, defendant Heale had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students within the Central Regional School District, including students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

16. At all times relevant, defendant Heale had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

18. At all times relevant, defendant Heale had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and

disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

18. At all times relevant, defendant Thomas Gallahue was the Anti-bullying coordinator at Central Regional High School, and was acting in that capacity at the time of the incidents set forth in this Complaint. As the Anti-bullying coordinator, defendant Gallahue had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students within the Central Regional School District, including students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

19. At all times relevant, defendant Gallahue had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

20. At all times relevant, defendant Gallahue had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

21. At all times relevant, defendant Jennifer Mullins was an Anti-bullying specialist at Central Regional High School, and was acting in that capacity at the time of the incidents set forth in this Complaint. As the Anti-bullying specialist, defendant Mullins had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students within the Central Regional School District, including students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

22. At all times relevant, defendant Mullins had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

23. At all times relevant, defendant Mullins had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

24. At all times relevant, defendant Angelo Mazzuca was an Assistant Principal of Central Regional High School within the Central Regional School District and was acting in that capacity at the time of the incidents set forth in this Complaint. As an Assistant Principal, defendant Mazzuca had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

25. At all times relevant, defendant Mazzuca had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

26. At all times relevant, defendant Mazzuca had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and was responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

27. At all times relevant, defendants John and Jane Does 1-20, who are pled fictitiously as their true identities and the roles they may have played in the incidents that are the subject of this Complaint remain unknown, were administrators, teachers, or other individuals affiliated with Central Regional School District who had a duty to provide for the safety and security of students within the Central Regional School District, including students at Central Regional High School, including Adriana Kuch.

28. At all times relevant, defendants John and Jane Does 1-20 had a duty to adhere to and provide the protections required by the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

29. At all times relevant, defendants John and Jane Does 1-20 had a duty to supervise, monitor, and train staff regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and were responsible for developing, implementing, and disseminating anti-harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and programs consistent with the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1, et seq.

30. At all times relevant, defendants Parlapandis, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 were agents, servants, and/or employees of defendant Central

Regional Board of Education and/or ABC Corp. 1-20. As such, defendants Central Regional Board of Education and/or ABC Corp. 1-20 are vicariously liable for the conduct of these defendants as set forth herein.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

31. For years prior to February 1, 2023, a culture and climate of harassment, intimidation, and bullying existed at Central Regional High School, which included physical assaults and attacks by students of students.

32. For years prior to February 1, 2023, defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapandis, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 were aware of a culture of harassment, intimidation, and bullying in the form of physical assaults and attacks by students of students occurring within Central Regional High School.

33. For years prior to February 1, 2023, Central Regional School District administrators, including the defendants herein, knew or should have known that the physical assaults and attacks within their schools, specifically within Central Regional High School, were being recorded and posted to various social media sites by other students, contrary to School Board policy.

34. In addition, while a Central Regional Board of Education policy allowed Central Regional School District administrators, including the defendants herein, to review and take possession of students' cell phones used to record and post such physical assaults and attacks, thus minimizing the risk that such recordings would be widely distributed to social media sites, such administrators, including the defendants herein, and teachers failed to follow that policy.

35. Prior to February 1, 2023, Central Regional School District administrators, including the defendants herein, knew or should have known that certain students, including K. B., A. M., A. L., and J. P.,¹ posed a threat to the safety and security of students at Central Regional High School, but they failed

¹ These individuals are juveniles and are referred to by their initials to protect their privacy.

to adequately and appropriately deal with and discipline those students to lessen the risk to the safety and security of other students, including Adriana Kuch.

36. On February 1, 2023, Adriana Kuch, was a freshman at Central Regional High School. While attending school on this date, she was walking in the school hallway with another student when, based on information and belief, A. M. and K. B. jumped and attacked Adriana, hitting her in the face with a water bottle, pulling her hair, punching, and kicking her. Based on information and belief, A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L. conspired to commit this attack on Adriana. Based on information and belief, this attack was recorded by at least J. P. and A. L. on their cell phones, and later posted to various social media sites.

37. Despite this felonious attack within Central Regional High School, Central Regional School District administrators, including the defendants herein, neglected to appropriately, adequately, and timely investigate the attack. Based on information and belief, the decision not to pursue criminal charges against the students who perpetrated this attack was done, according to defendant Parlapanides, to avoid saddling the students who committed the attack with a "double whammy," i.e., potential discipline by both school authorities and law enforcement.

38. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent and careless conduct of the Central Regional Board of Education and Central Regional School District administrators, including all defendants herein, A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L. were permitted to harass, intimidate, and bully Adriana Kuch in the form of a physical assault within the hallways of Central Regional High School.

39. As a direct and proximate result of the inadequate, untimely, cursory, and inappropriate investigation of this attack by the Central Regional School District administrators, including all defendants herein, the attackers were permitted to post video of the attack, accompanied by devastating commentary, to social media sites for all to see, including Adriana.

40. As a direct and proximate result of the attack, Adriana sustained significant personal injuries, including but not limited to bruising, swelling, cuts, and lacerations to her head, face, body, and

legs. She also suffered emotional distress, humiliation, and embarrassment – first, because she was the victim of physical bullying and violence carried out in the hallways of Central Regional High School; and, second, because she was the victim of cyber bullying from the video of the attack being posted to social media sites. As a result of the emotional distress, humiliation, and embarrassment she experienced, on or about the night of February 2-3, 2023, Adriana died by suicide by hanging herself in her family home.

41. Thereafter, on or about, February 10, 2023, the day of Adriana's funeral service, while her family was grieving their tragic loss, Superintendent Parlapanides, using his Central Regional School District email account, disclosed to a reporter that Adriana's "mother killed herself because the father was having an affair when Ariana [sic] was in 6th grade. A year later he married the woman he had an affair with and moved her into the house. In 7th and 8th grade Adrianna [sic] started making bad choices and using drugs. We requested 7 times that the father take her for drug tests and seek therapy. He refused each time. Adrianna [sic] gave her friends laced drugs and those friends were the ones that beat her up. That is the true story which you can't report on."

42. This cruel, malicious, callous, insensitive, and entirely false diatribe by Superintendent Parlapanides followed these remarks made by the superintendent to another reporter on February 8, 2023: "The mom killed herself two years ago. The girls that assaulted her were friends with her but thought she had laced the marijuana they had smoked together. The father is very upset and has lost his child so sometimes you just have to eat the shit sandwich."

43. In addition, the superintendent published the following to another reporter on February 10, 2023: "After her mother's suicide since her father was having an affair at the end of her 6th grade. Her father married the woman he had an affair with and moved her into the house. Her grades and choices declined in 7th and 8th grade. We offered her drug rehab and mental [health] services on 5 occasions but father refused every time."

44. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that Adriana's father had an affair were false.

45. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that Adriana's mother committed suicide because Mr. Kuch had an affair were false.

46. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that Adriana's father was having an affair at the end of Adriana's 6th grade year were false.

47. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that Adriana's father married a woman with whom he was having an affair were false.

48. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that Adriana's father moved a woman with whom he was having an affair into the family home were false.

49. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that there was an association between plaintiff Michael Kuch, Sr., having an affair with a woman who he moved into the family home and married and a decline in Adriana's grades and choices were false.

50. The statements made to reporters by Superintendent Parlapanides that Adriana was offered drug rehabilitation and mental health services on multiple occasions by the School District, but that Michael Kuch, Sr., refused those services every time were false.

51. Superintendent Parlapanides' statements made to reporters about Adriana's alleged drug and mental health issues were made in violation of federal law.

FIRST COUNT

Negligence Against Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20

52. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

53. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 knew or should have known that, prior to

February 1, 2023, instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying within the Central Regional School District had created a culture of violence at Central Regional High School.

54. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 knew or should have known that A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L. posed a threat to fellow students, including Adriana Kuch, and that they would harass, intimidate, and bully, in the form of physical assault within the hallways of Central Regional High School.

55. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 knew or should have known that students who committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying in the form of physical assaults on other students, including A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L., recorded such assaults that occurred within the hallways of Central Regional High School on their cell phones and then posted those videos to social media sites, thus leading to a situation in which victims of physical assaults, including Adriana Kuch, became victims of cyberattacks as well.

56. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, owed a duty to all Central Regional High School students and their parents/guardians, including Adriana Kuch, Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch, to protect students from harassment, intimidation, bullying, abuse, and assault as described herein, as codified by N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13, et seq., and by (1) developing, implementing, enacting, and/or carrying out appropriate policies, procedures, rules, and regulations intended to eliminate harassment, intimidation, and bullying by students through physical attacks and cyberattacks; (2) appropriately and adequately addressing threats posed by students, including A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L. to other students, including Adriana Kuch; (3) conducting adequate, timely, and thorough investigations of all physical assaults, including the one committed upon Adriana Kuch on February 1, 2023, in order to eliminate the risk that such physical attacks would become cyberattacks.

57. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 breached their duties owed to the plaintiffs and were negligent and careless by failing to develop, implement, enact, and/or carry out appropriate policies, procedures, rules, and regulations to prevent harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students, including Adriana Kuch, by students at Central Regional High School.

58. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 breached their duties owed to the plaintiffs and were negligent and careless by failing to appropriately and adequately address the threat posed by A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L. to other students, including Adriana Kuch.

59. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20 breached their duties owed to the plaintiffs and were negligent and careless by failing to conduct an adequate, timely, and thorough investigation of the physical attack carried out upon Adriana Kuch on February 1, 2023, which would have eliminated the risk of a subsequent cyberattack upon Adriana.

60. Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Janes Does 1-20 breached their duties owed to the plaintiffs and were negligent and careless by failing to properly train, supervise, manage, and direct others who were responsible for developing and carrying out pertinent policies and procedures, addressing the threat to others posed by A. M., K. B., J. P., and A. L., and/or investigating the attacks carried out upon Adriana Kuch.

61. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, Adriana Kuch sustained severe and permanent injuries, both physical and emotional, she

required medical care and attention, she sustained other losses thereby, and on February 2-3, 2023, she died by suicide.

62. As the duly appointed Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of Adriana Kuch, Michael Kuch, Sr., is authorized to bring an action under New Jersey's Survivors Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:15-3, et seq., for the harm suffered by Adriana Kuch from the time of the defendants' negligence until her death. In addition, Michael Kuch, Sr., is duly authorized to prosecute a claim under New Jersey's Wrongful Death Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:31-1, et seq.

63. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, plaintiffs incurred medical expenses and funeral expenses on behalf of Adriana Kuch.

64. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, those who were or would be dependent upon Adriana Kuch for financial support and contributions, assistance, advice, guidance, counsel, and household services have been and will continue to be deprived of same.

65. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, the plaintiffs have suffered, continue to suffer, and will suffer emotional distress, both from harm caused to them and from harm caused to Adriana Kuch.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, Irene Marousis, Darryl Heale, Thomas Gallahue,

Jennifer Mullins, Angelo Mazzuca, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

SECOND COUNT

Invasion of Privacy Against Defendants Central Regional Board of Education and Parlapanides

66. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

67. In response to questions by reporters, at least on February 8 and 10, 2023, Defendant Parlapanides emailed the reporters from his school district email account and stated that: (a) Adriana's mother killed herself because Michael Kuch, Sr., was having an affair when Adriana was in 6th grade; (b) a year later, Michael Kuch, Sr., married the woman he had an affair with and moved her into the family home; (c) as a result, in 7th and 8th grade Adriana started making bad choices and using drugs; (d) school officials requested multiple times (either five times or seven) that Michael Kuch, Sr., take Adriana for drug tests and mental health therapy, but he refused each time. Each of these statements was false.

68. Defendant Parlapanides knew that these matters, which he publicized through his emails to reporters, were false and would place plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch in a false light, and/or he acted with reckless disregard for the truth.

69. These statements so misrepresented the character, history, activities, and beliefs of Michael Kuch, Sr. and/or Sarah Kuch so as to be highly offensive.

70. In addition, statements regarding Adriana Kuch's drug use, need for mental health counseling, offers of support to the Kuch family, and any response by the Kuch family to those offers are protected by The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99, and statements by defendant Parlapanides concerning those issues violated this statute and violated the plaintiffs' right to privacy.

71. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of Defendant Parlapanides, plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch were cast in a false light, they have suffered, continue to suffer, and will in the future suffer mental anguish, emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and indignity, and they have suffered physical manifestations associated with their emotional distress. As such, plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch are entitled to compensatory and punitive damages.

72. Defendant Parlapanides made these egregiously false statements while in the scope of his employment as the Central Regional School District Superintendent. As such, defendant Central Regional Board of Education is vicariously liable for conduct of Defendant Parlapanides set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for compensatory and punitive damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

THIRD COUNT

Defamation Against Defendants Central Regional Board of Education and Parlapanides

73. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

74. Defendant Parlapanides made his egregiously false statements to reporters concerning plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch with actual knowledge that the statements were false, and/or with a reckless disregard of the statements' truth or falsity.

75. Defendant Parlapanides acted maliciously, intentionally, and in a willful and wanton disregard for the rights of the Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch.

76. Defendant Parlapanides acted negligently in failing to determine the falsity of the statements he made to reporters about Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch. Specifically, defendant

Parlapanides had no reasonable grounds to believe the statements were true, and/or he failed to check on the truth or falsity of the statements.

77. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of Defendant Parlapanides, plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch were defamed. They have suffered, continue to suffer, and will in the future suffer material, economic, and/or financial losses due to the injury to their reputations. They have suffered emotional distress due to the damage to their reputations. They have suffered other losses thereby.

78. Defendant Parlapanides made these defamatory statements while in the scope of his employment as the Central Regional School District Superintendent. As such, defendant Central Regional Board of Education is vicariously liable for conduct of Defendant Parlapanides set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for compensatory, nominal, and punitive damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

FOURTH COUNT

Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Against Defendants Central Regional Board of Education and Parlapanides

79. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

80. Defendant Parlapanides acted unreasonably in the statements he gave to various reporters referencing plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., and Sarah Kuch.

81. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of defendant Parlapanides, plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., Sarah Kuch, and Ethan Kuch suffered, continue to suffer, and will suffer emotional distress, as well as the physical manifestations of that emotional distress.

82. Defendant Parlapanides' conduct upon which this count is based occurred while in the scope of his employment as the Central Regional School District Superintendent. As such, defendant Central Regional Board of Education is vicariously liable for conduct of Defendant Parlapanides set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

FIFTH COUNT

Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Against Defendants Central Regional Board of Education and Parlapanides

83. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

84. Defendant Parlapanides' actions set forth herein were intentional, willful, wanton, malicious, and reckless, and he acted in deliberate disregard of a high degree of probability that emotional distress will follow.

85. Defendant Parlapanides' conduct was extreme and outrageous in that his conduct exceeded all possible bounds of decency, were regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

86. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of defendant Parlapanides, plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., Sarah Kuch, and Ethan Kuch suffered, continue to suffer, and will suffer emotional

distress so severe that no reasonable person could be expected to endure such distress; they suffered, continue to suffer, and will suffer genuine and substantial emotional distress and/or mental harm that would afflict the average person under the same or similar circumstances.

87. Defendant Parlapanides' conduct upon which this count is based occurred while in the scope of his employment as the Central Regional School District Superintendent. As such, defendant Central Regional Board of Education is vicariously liable for conduct of Defendant Parlapanides set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for compensatory and punitive damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

SIXTH COUNT

Portee Claim Against Defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca

88. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

89. As a result of the negligence of defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, plaintiff's decedent, Adriana Kuch, suffered serious bodily injury and then death.

90. Plaintiffs have witnessed the events that led directly to Adriana Kuch's serious bodily injuries, to wit, the video recording of their daughter, step-daughter, and sister's physical attack in the hallway of Central Regional High School.

91. In addition, plaintiff Sarah Kuch discovered her step-daughter hanging in her bedroom closet of the family home. Soon after, both Michael Kuch, Sr., and Ethan Kuch came upon the scene and witnessed Adriana's lifeless body.

92. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Parlapanides, Marousis, Heale, Gallahue, Mullins, Mazzuca, and John and Jane Does 1-20, plaintiffs Michael Kuch, Sr., Sarah Kuch, and Ethan Kuch experienced severe emotional distress as a result of the observation of the aforementioned events.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, Irene Marousis, Darryl Heale, Thomas Gallahue, Jennifer Mullins, Angelo Mazzuca, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

SEVENTH COUNT

Punitive Damages

93. Plaintiffs repeat and reassert each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

94. The conduct of defendants named herein was so egregious as to be willful, wanton, reckless, intentional, malicious, and in utter disregard for the rights of Adriana Kuch, Michael Kuch, Sr., Sarah Kuch, and Ethan Kuch, as to warrant imposing punitive damages against them.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs, Michael Kuch, Sr., individually, as the Administrator and Administrator ad Prosequendum of the Estate of his daughter, Adriana Kuch, and as the parent and natural guardian of Ethan Kuch, and Sarah Kuch hereby demand judgment for punitive damages on this count against defendants Central Regional Board of Education, Triantafillos Parlapanides, Irene Marousis, Darryl Heale, Thomas

Gallahue, Jennifer Mullins, Angelo Mazzuca, John and Jane Does 1-20, and ABC Corp. 1-20, individually, jointly, or in the alternative, together with interest and costs of suit.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury as to all issues.

CERTIFICATION UNDER RULE 4:5-1

We hereby certify that this matter is not the subject of any other action pending in any court or a pending arbitration proceeding and that no other action or arbitration proceeding is contemplated.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Pursuant to Rule 4:25-4, plaintiffs hereby designate William A. Kraiss, Esquire, as trial counsel.

PORZIO, BROMBERG & NEWMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By William A. Kraiss
William A. Kraiss
An Attorney of the Firm

Dated: January 29, 2024

EXHIBIT A

**State of New Jersey
Ocean County Surrogate's Court
Jeffrey W. Moran, Surrogate**

**ADMINISTRATION
SHORT CERTIFICATE**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF OCEAN ss.

I, **Jeffrey W. Moran**, Surrogate of Ocean County, do hereby certify that Letters of Administration of **Adriana O. Kuch** died intestate, late of the County of Ocean and State of New Jersey, on **February 21, 2023**, were granted by the Ocean County Surrogate's Court to **Michael W. Kuch, Sr.** who is duly authorized to administer same agreeably to law with entering into bond.

I **FURTHER CERTIFY** that said letters as appears from the records of this court are in full force and unrevoked.



**WITNESS my hand and seal of office on
February 21, 2023**

Jeffrey W. Moran, Surrogate

EXHIBIT B

Docket # 250395

**State of New Jersey
Ocean County Surrogate's Court
Jeffrey W. Moran, Surrogate**

**In the Matter of the Estate of
Adriana O. Kuch, Deceased**

}

**LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
AD PROSEQUENDUM**

I, **Jeffrey W. Moran**, Surrogate of Ocean County, State of New Jersey, do certify that on **February 21, 2023**, Administration Ad Prosequendum of decedent, who died intestate, late of the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey was granted by me to

Michael W. Kuch, Sr.

who is duly authorized to bring an action, institute a proceeding or make a claim in the decedent's name as such **Administrator** as in the statute such case provided.



**WITNESS, my hand and seal of office on
February 21, 2023**

Jeffrey W. Moran, Surrogate

Civil Case Information Statement

Case Details: OCEAN | Civil Part Docket# L-000252-24

Case Caption: KUCH SR. MICHAEL VS PARLAPANIDES
TRIANTAFI

Case Initiation Date: 01/29/2024

Attorney Name: WILLIAM A KRAIS

Firm Name: PORZIO BROMBERG & NEWMAN PC

Address: 100 SOUTHGATE PKWY PO BOX 1997

MORRISTOWN NJ 079621997

Phone: 9735384006

Name of Party: PLAINTIFF : KUCH SR., MICHAEL

Name of Defendant's Primary Insurance Company

(if known): Unknown

Case Type: PERSONAL INJURY

Document Type: Complaint with Jury Demand

Jury Demand: YES - 12 JURORS

Is this a professional malpractice case? NO

Related cases pending: NO

If yes, list docket numbers:

Do you anticipate adding any parties (arising out of same transaction or occurrence)? NO

Does this case involve claims related to COVID-19? NO

Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: MICHAEL KUCH SR.? NO

Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: ESTATE OF ADRIANA KUCH?
NO

Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: MICHAEL KUCH SR.? NO

Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: ETHAN KUCH? NO

Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: SARAH KUCH? NO

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM CANNOT BE INTRODUCED INTO EVIDENCE

CASE CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR MEDIATION

Do parties have a current, past, or recurrent relationship? NO

If yes, is that relationship:

Does the statute governing this case provide for payment of fees by the losing party? NO

Use this space to alert the court to any special case characteristics that may warrant individual management or accelerated disposition:

Do you or your client need any disability accommodations? NO

If yes, please identify the requested accommodation:

Will an interpreter be needed? NO

If yes, for what language:

**Please check off each applicable category: Putative Class Action? NO Title 59? NO Consumer Fraud? NO
Medical Debt Claim? NO**

I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with *Rule* 1:38-7(b)

01/29/2024
Dated

/s/ WILLIAM A KRAIS
Signed