

From: Chambers, Kevin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: School Board Threats
To: McQuaid, Nicholas (CRM)
Sent: October 1, 2021 7:12 PM (UTC-04:00)

Just an FYI. This is moving quickly and will likely result in an announcement this weekend that DOJ is going to take a number of steps, including offer training and guidance to school boards on threat identification and response. The first item below about prosecutable cases may keep though it looks like a recent 10th circuit case *Golightley* held that just using the internet doesn't make a federal case, and we conceded as much (at least in that case).

From: Chambers, Kevin (ODAG)
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 1:26 PM
To: McQuaid, Nicholas (CRM) <(b) (6)>
Subject: School Board Threats

A couple questions:

1. Let me know what you've determined about whether threats of a local school board member, by a local, but using email, phone etc. falls under the threats statute?
2. Can we tweak the training/guidance given to state/local election officials on what constitutes threats, and how to deal with them, for delivery to the school boards association.

Getting calls on this every 10 minutes. Happy Friday.

From: Gupta, Vanita (OASG)
Subject: RE: Letter
To: Rossi, Rachel (OASG)
Cc: Monroe, Becky (OASG)
Sent: October 1, 2021 5:17 PM (UTC-04:00)

Becky – you said you think CRS could be helpful here. This seems like a nationwide problem. Say more about how you think CRS could be of assistance?

From: Rossi, Rachel (OASG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Gupta, Vanita (OASG) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Monroe, Becky (OASG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Letter

<https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-letter-to-president-biden-concerning-threats-to-public-schools-and-school-board-members-92921.pdf>

Rachel Rossi | Deputy Associate Attorney General
Office of the Associate Attorney General

(b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)

From:
Subject: RE: NSBA Letter to the President
To: McDowell, Ephraim A. EOP/WHO
Sent: October 1, 2021 12:50 PM (UTC-04:00)

Hey Ephraim:

Needless to say, we share the concern. We

From: McDowell, Ephraim A. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Chambers, Kevin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: NSBA Letter to the President

Duplicative Material, Document ID: 0.7.1451.6770

From: McDowell, Ephraim A. EOP/WHO
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: safety issues for school boards, principals, school staff
To: Chambers, Kevin (ODAG)
Sent: September 27, 2021 3:32 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Internal NSBA Summary on School Board Disruption.docx, Re_ Time to chat.eml, [EXTERNAL] Heads up_ NASSP Calls on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence.eml

Kevin – Thanks for chatting. This is the info that WH policymakers sent to me about the school safety issue. Let me know if you have any thoughts/ideas about next steps.

Best,
Ephraim

From: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:31 PM
To: McDowell, Ephraim A. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> Bains, Chiraag EOP/WHO
<(b) (6)> Tracey-Mooney, Maureen EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
McKinney, Jessica A. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> Knackstedt, Kimberly M. EOP/WHO
<(b) (6)> Shah, Reema B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: safety issues for school boards, principals, school staff

Hi all – for our huddle at 930am – attaching everything I have from the school boards association, and the junior high/high school principal association re: safety concerns and what they're calling on us to do

From: Chip Slaven <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:27 PM
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: examples

Hi Mary,

Thanks for letting me know about your meeting tomorrow. I am glad to hear of the interest level. We want to prepare you with as much information as possible.

Attached please find an internal NSBA document detailing some of the publicly available information concerning threats to school board members and disruptions of meetings. We used this document as a reference point to help draft the letter we plan to send. It is about two weeks old and there have been numerous new issues since then, but this should give you an idea of what school boards are facing. In addition to this summary, I have also been personally informed about several incidents that are very concerning that I will share with you. In West Virginia, an individual showed up at a school board meeting and displayed pictures of a board members young children taken at a camp in which they were not wearing masks. The individual had gone on to the school board members personal Facebook page and captured the images of his children. In Ohio, one school board has been facing large crowds attempting to block entry into meetings, screaming and sometimes spitting at the members, and keying their cars. That same board has also received a letter sent with a fake address claiming they would be coming after the board and will make them pay dearly. The threat was nonspecific, but you get the idea of what is happening. There are also reports of Proud Boys showing up at various school board meetings and teaming up with anti-maskers, Qanon followers now considering running for school board elections and becoming more interested in school boards, and general levels of hostility around mask wearing and political issues such as debate over critical race theory—which is not actually taught in any public school. Misinformation and social media fueled by national groups and extremists are driving much of the debate as well as partisan politics. School board elections are generally

nonpartisan and locally driven. This seems like a test drive for issues during the upcoming national campaigns. I would not be surprised if there are intentional social media campaigns from foreign powers or other bad operators also popping up like what happened during the 2016 election.

I want to help you with your meeting tomorrow so I am providing some bullets below that I hope will be useful to you. Please bear in mind the letter is not final yet and we are still vetting through our legal team as well as our officers. But I can tell you that the areas for consideration I am interested in terms of federal requests and/or recommendations are below. I think our goals are the same so we want to offer as much information to you as we can in advance. Please just don't consider them formal until our official letter comes. There could be changes or modifications tomorrow, but our interest is in the following areas:

- NSBA would like to see a joint collaboration among federal law enforcement agencies, state and local law enforcement, and public school officials to focus on the threats to public schools and how to deal with them.
- NSBA is interested in getting the assistance and resources of the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and its National Threat Assessment Center regarding the level of risk to public schoolchildren, educators, board members, and facilities/campuses. We would also like to see the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to intervene against threatening letters and cyberbullying attacks that have been transmitted to students, school board members, district administrators, and other educators.
- NSBA is considering requesting a joint expedited review by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Homeland Security, along with the appropriate training, coordination, investigations, and enforcement mechanisms from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including any technical assistance necessary from, and state and local coordination with, its National Security Branch and Counterterrorism Division, as well as any other federal agency with relevant jurisdictional authority and oversight.
- Additionally, NSBA is interested in a review of appropriate enforceable actions against these crimes and acts of violence under the Gun-Free School Zones Act, the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism, Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Violent Interference with Federally Protected Rights statute, Conspiracy Against Rights statute, an Executive Order to enforce all applicable federal laws for the protection of students and public school district personnel, and any related measure.

The letter will go into greater detail and will also contain additional clarity and examples of incidents school board members are facing. Many of the examples that will be cited are from the attached internal document. Please let me know if you have any questions and/or comments. Our members need a strong stance and leadership from NSBA so that is what I am hoping to do with the letter. My hope is this just the beginning of additional collaboration. We very much want to be part of the solution going forward and work with you.

Thanks again for your leadership,
Chip

From: Nozoe, Ronn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Heads up: NASSP Calls on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: September 16, 2021 2:23 PM (UTC-04:00)

Aloha Mary,

Hope this message finds you well and thank you for your work to ensure students, families, educators, and schools are safe!

Wanted to let you know that we put this call to action out today:

While everyone has felt the impacts of the pandemic, school leaders are on the front lines of the conflicts over masks, quarantines, vaccines, and so many other issues. We have been hearing from members that they are under attack -- both physical and online threats are consuming their lives and disrupting educating our children.

This is unacceptable.

Today, we are calling on federal officials to provide support for school leaders being threatened and undermined by those who disagree with school guidelines on COVID-19 best practices.

Below you'll find our press release. It sheds light on the experience of one of our brave members, Dr. Teresa M. Hill, Principal at Walden Grove High School in Arizona. In addition, we have created an [online action](#) asking the federal government to protect school leaders from threats and violence. I hope you will take a moment to take the action and share it widely with your networks.

Mahalo,

Ronn



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 16, 2021

Contact:

Regina Grossman, NASSP, 305-807-8085, (b) (6)

NASSP Calls on Federal Officials to Protect School Leaders from Threats and Violence

Reston, VA—The National Association for Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is calling on federal officials to provide support for school leaders being threatened and undermined by those who disagree with school guidelines on COVID-19 best practices.

While the pandemic has impacted every one—school leaders are bearing the brunt of conflicts over masks, quarantines, vaccines, and other highly charged issues. They have been faced with hostile community members, threats to their own safety or safety of the school, and with non-compliance with rules that are meant to keep us all safe.

Dr. Teresa M. Hill, Principal at Walden Grove High School in Arizona and NASSP member, tells of her experience with threats at her school: “One month ago, seven people refused to leave our campus demanding a quarantined student attend class. After a lockdown of the front office for three hours, we were forced to arrest three of them. This has resulted in multiple threatening and intimidating voice messages, emails, and social media comments directly targeting me. Calling me a Nazi, a fascist, using profanity, and being told to ‘eat the end of a shotgun’ is beyond disturbing. Two weeks later, three men threatened and intimidated an elementary principal in my area by demanding a citizen’s arrest while holding zip ties in their hands.”

“While we appreciate the guidance and words of support from the Biden Administration, the Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control, more concrete action is needed fast to protect our school leaders and schools,” **said NASSP CEO Ronn Nozoe.** “We need the full authority of the federal government to help us remove or ban threatening individuals from our schools who are determined to do nothing more than disrupt learning or potentially harm us or our staff. At the very least, we need the U.S. Department of Education to issue specific guidance on the authority school leaders have to protect themselves and our ability to remove or ban hostile parents and individuals from school grounds who threaten our safety.”

School leaders are facing threats because they are simply trying to follow the health and scientific safety guidance that the CDC, state, and local health departments are issuing. NASSP is calling on federal officials to protect school leaders from rampant hostility and violence that disrupts our schools and threatens the safety of our educators and students. Learn more [here](#).

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About NASSP

[The National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) (NASSP) is the leading organization of middle level and high school principals and other school leaders across the United States. NASSP seeks to transform education through school leadership, recognizing that the fulfillment of each student's potential relies on great leaders in every school committed to the success of each student. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the [National Honor Society](#), [National Junior Honor Society](#), [National Elementary Honor Society](#), and [National Student Council](#).

Summary:

1. 28 cases occurred in 16 states.
2. In 3 cases, protesters are against CRT.
3. In 21 cases, protesters are against Mask Mandates.
4. The disruptive behaviors include (1) unmasked crowds attending school board meeting; (2) disobeying the time limit for speech; (3) yelling and shouting, bad manners; (4) searching board members and attacking board members in person
5. In most cases, police were called, and school board meetings were adjourned. In a few cases, some individuals were arrested.
6. At least two reports mention state laws:
 - (1) 2012 Florida Statutes, 877.13 Educational institutions or school boards; penalty for disruption — [Chapter 877 Section 13 - 2012 Florida Statutes - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#)
 - (2) A California court upheld in 2018 that the three minute time limits on public comments during meetings are constitutional, and it is a practice that is also followed by the Cheyenne City Council. [Pinedale Roundup | School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption](#)

Table. 28 Cases of Disrupting School Board Meetings

State	Districts	Date on News	Protest	Disruption Description	Link
California	Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District	8/12/2021	Mask Mandates	loud protest	Mask mandate opponents delay Palos Verdes Peninsula school board meeting – Daily Breeze
California	Poway Unified School District	9/9/2021	Mask Mandates	A “Let Them Breathe” rally that began an hour before Poway Unified School District’s monthly meeting on Thursday night got so disruptive that the board had to adjourn before completing its business.	Protesters disrupt Poway Unified board meeting, cause its adjournment - Pomerado News (sandiegouniontribune.com)

				police were called to clear the room.	
California	Desert Sands Unified School District school board meeting	8/17/2021		public commenters were being too loud and interfering with the proceedings.	Raucous Desert Sands school board meeting interrupted, president clears room full of commenters (desertsun.com)
California	Oakland Unified School District	10/23/2019		Six Protesters Arrested After Climbing Barrier At Oakland School Board Meeting	Six Protesters Arrested After Climbing Barrier At Oakland School Board Meeting – CBS San Francisco (cbslocal.com)
Florida	Sarasota school district	8/23/2021	Mask Mandates	The board meeting on Friday was chaotic, with board members sparring with audience members who frequently interrupted the proceedings.	Sarasota Superintendent Brennan Asplen at odds with board's new mask mandate (heraldtribune.com)
Georgia	Gwinnett County Public Schools	5/21/2021	Mask Mandates	Nearly 100 people refused to wear face masks as required or leave the Thursday night meeting of the Gwinnett County Board of Education, shouting and arguing until board members left and convened the meeting in another room.	Anti-mask crowd disrupts Gwinnett school board meeting (ajc.com)
Illinois	Mendon Board of Education meeting	9/2/2021		A Mendon, Illinois, man was arrested Wednesday night for aggravated battery and disorderly conduct	Mendon man arrested following disruption at Unity School board meeting (wgem.com)

				following a disruption at a Mendon Board of Education meeting at Unity High School, according to the Adams County Sheriff's Office.	
Michigan	Birmingham City School District	8/19/2021	Mask Mandates	Police are investigating a man who flashed a Nazi salute and chanted "Heil Hitler" during a raucous Birmingham Board of Education meeting over a mask mandate for students. Unruly anti-maskers booed and hurled insults at board members and speakers, including a high school student, who spoke in favor of face coverings during the meeting	Nazi salute, insults hurled at chaotic Birmingham schools meeting over mask mandate News Hits (metrotimes.com)
Michigan	Grand Ledge Public Schools	6/16/2021	CRT	someone went over their 3-minute time limit during public comment	Grand Ledge school board goes into recess due to public "disruption" WLN6 News
Nevada	Clark County School Board	8/12/2021	Mask Mandates	A Clark County School Board meeting turned contentious Thursday night, with audience members yelling and a handful being escorted out by police. More than 100 people were in the audience for the meeting at the Clark County Government Center, a	https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/school-board-meeting-turns-contentious-over-covid-19-policies-2418652/

				different and larger venue than normal. The majority of the time was spent on public comment, and many attendees spoke in opposition to COVID-19 mask requirements and vaccinations. The School Board left the room three times within the first two hours of the meeting — evacuating once for about 10 minutes as shouting from the audience intensified and twice for five-minute recesses. More than 10 people who disrupted the meeting were told to leave and did, or were escorted out of the room by police, including one attendee who was handcuffed. Among them was a group of about six people wearing yellow hazmat suits.	
New Jersey	Tom River Regional School board	8/26/2021	Mask Mandates	Attendees refused to wear masks and another cut short public comment after yelling and name-calling disrupted a mask discussion.	NJ mask mandate for students sparks more disruption for school boards (app.com)
Ohio	Nordonia Hills City	8/31/2021	Mask Mandates	Sheriff deputies were called to the Nordonia Hills City	Nordonia Hills school mask policy fight (fox8.com)

	School District			School District board meeting Monday after a group of anti-mask protestors refused to wear masks indoors conflicting with the district mask policy.	
Pennsylvania	Garnet Valley School District	8/26/2021	Mask Mandates	Mask protests in Garnet Valley resulted in police being called to the August School Board meeting on Tuesday evening.	Mask protest brings police to Garnet Valley School Board meeting – Delco Times
Pennsylvania	North Penn School District	8/10/2021	Mask Mandates	North Penn School Board members abruptly adjourned Tuesday night's board meeting during a verbal altercation among residents, after voting to direct staff to prepare a mask mandate for elementary-age students for approval next week.	WATCH: North Penn School Board meeting descends into mayhem over masks Local-news thereporteronline.com
Tennessee	Williamson County School District Board meeting on school safety measures	8/12/2021	Mask Mandates	unmask, mob action	Anti-mask mob swarms school board meeting Salon.com
Texas	Grand Prairie ISD	8/13/2021	rename school	shouting, abrupt	Grand Prairie ISD meeting abruptly adjourns after disruptions by civil rights leader (dallasnews.com)

Utah	Granite School District	5/5/2021	Mask Mandates	The Granite Board of Education meeting came to an abrupt end Tuesday night in South Salt Lake after a group of attendees became agitated when a patron was not allowed to address the board.	Granite School Board abruptly adjourns when protesters disrupt meeting - Deseret News
Virginia	Spotsylvania County School Board ended after 13 minutes with no business conducted when the audience became unruly	8/24/2021	Mask Mandates	Unruly behavior	Unruly crowd causes Spotsylvania School Board meeting to adjourn after 13 minutes Local News fredericksburg.com
Virginia	Loudoun County School Board	6/22/2021	CRT	One man was arrested, another man was ticketed for trespassing and a third person was hurt at a chaotic public meeting Tuesday on equity issues in Loudoun County Public Schools.	1 Arrest, 1 Injury at Chaotic Loudoun Schools Meeting on Equity – NBC4 Washington (nbcwashington.com)
Washington	Marysville School Board	8/18/2021	Mask Mandates	Mob's action, verbal abuse	Editorial: Mob's actions at school board meeting unacceptable HeraldNet.com

Washington	Oak Harbor school board	8/13/2021	Mask Mandates	Several people began shouting over board members while they were discussing COVID-19 guidance	Oak Harbor school board clears the room after audience shouts disrupt meeting Whidbey News-Times (whidbeynewstimes.com)
Washington	Wenatchee and Moses Lake districts	9/9/2021	Mask Mandates	Conduct that disrupts the meeting from going forward may cause the meeting to be adjourned and reconvened virtually. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to; Entering the District Office without a mask Removal of masks during the meeting	https://www.kpq.com/wenatchee-moses-lake-districts-alert-public-on-mask-requirements-at-school-board-meetings-wenatchee-outlines-actions-if-disruptions-occur/
Washington	Washougal School Board	8/19/2021	Mask Mandates	The Washougal School Board resumed in-person meetings this month for the first time since a May 25 school board meeting ended in disruption and police citations against three community members.	Washougal School Board resumes in-person meetings Camas-Washougal Post-Record (camaspostrecord.com)
Washington	Goldendale School District	8/25/2021	Mask Mandates	Calling the police in the face of unruly disruption from members of the public.	School board makes 911 call to clear meeting News goldendalesentinel.com
Wisconsin	Oshkosh School Board meeting	8/25/2021	Mask Mandates	Protestors stormed a school board meeting on masking, forcing the board to postpone the meeting.	Oshkosh School Board meeting postponed after protesters disrupt it, argument breaks out (wbay.com)

Wisconsin	Burlington Area School District	8/10/2021	Mask Mandates	A line of Burlington Police officers on Monday night stops a crowd of angry parents, opposed to the idea of a mask mandate in the Burlington Area School District, from further searching for district school board members through the halls of Burlington High School. The school board had vacated the BHS auditorium after the audience repeatedly and loudly interrupted the board as it met.	Chaotic Burlington school board meeting in photos and video Local News journaltimes.com
Wyoming	Albany County School District Board of Education	9/8/2021	Mask Mandates	An unruly and disruptive group of local residents nearly derailed Wednesday's Albany County School District Board of Education meeting minutes into it. The group, many not wearing face masks, were there to speak about the board's consideration of extending a mask mandate for district students and staff. The current mandate is set to expire Friday.	Masking mandate debate boils over News wyomingnews.com
Wyoming	Laramie County	8/4/2021	CRT	a resident began yelling at trustees and refused to give up the mic when his	Pinedale Roundup School board meeting over COVID stopped after disruption

	School District 1			allotted public comment period was over.	
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From: Samuel, Aaliyah
Subject: Re: Time to chat
To: Sargrad, Scott; Leheny, Emma; Nix, Sheila; Simmons, Nick; Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Sent: September 21, 2021 8:00 AM (UTC-04:00)

+Mary for awareness.

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
Mobile | (b) (6)

From: "Sargrad, Scott" <Scott.Sargrad@ed.gov>
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 at 3:20 PM
To: "Samuel, Aaliyah" <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>, "Leheny, Emma" <Emma.Leheny@ed.gov>, "Nix, Sheila" <Sheila.Nix@ed.gov>, "Simmons, Nick" <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>
Cc: "Watkins-Foote, Kimberly" <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: Time to chat

Thanks Aaliyah – these are definitely not ED asks, and I don't know if these are things the administration can do without Congress. Certainly seems more in DOJ's wheelhouse than ours, though. Emma, keep us posted if you're able to talk with DOJ.

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Sargrad, Scott <Scott.Sargrad@ed.gov>; Leheny, Emma <Emma.Leheny@ed.gov>; Nix, Sheila <Sheila.Nix@ed.gov>; Simmons, Nick <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>
Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>
Subject: FW: Time to chat

Hi All,

Please see the specific asks from NASSP. The asks is really bigger than the department – it's more of an ask for the administration. This is all regarding the health and safety of school administrators but more broadly the asks is for school personnel.

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
Mobile | (b) (6)

From: "Nozoe, Ronn" <(b) (6)>
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 at 2:38 PM

To: "Samuel, Aaliyah" <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Subject: Re: Time to chat

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for reaching out!

Per our conversation, here are our 3 asks:

- Build safe zones around schools - similar to drug free zones. Make it a federal crime to threaten any educator/school staff on school property.
- Set up a 911 Network to report physical and social threats. Establish an ombudsman at the federal level with a direct line to the FBI/justice department. Do not leave it solely up to local authorities to determine the severity of the threats.
- Provide legal protections for all educators by creating a legal defense fund so school leaders who have been maligned in their community can get legal assistance to protect/repair their reputations. (NASSP already offers legal insurance for when members are sued as a member benefit. This is different – we are asking for a fund to be set up so school leaders who have had their reputations smeared in public/social media/local media because of mask/no mask vax/no vax mandates do not have to dig into their personal savings to hire attorneys for defamation of character/slander legal action necessary to clear their names.

Pls lmk if you need more info!

Thank you,
Ronn

From: Samuel, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>

Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 at 9:08 AM

To: Nozoe, Ronn <(b) (6)>

Subject: Time to chat

Hi Ronn,

Happy Monday! By chance could we find a time to chat offline? I am in Chi now heading to WI for the Bus Tour but could talk in a couple of hours if you're free. My cell is below – feel free to text or call.

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
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U.S. Department of Education
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