

## Houston Federation of Teachers



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### CONTACT:

**Jackie Anderson**

[Janderson@hft2415.org](mailto:Janderson@hft2415.org)

281-221-5781

**Chris Tritico**

281-744-7446

## Houston Federation of Teacher dismisses lawsuit against Superintendent Mike Miles and HISD Board of Managers

**HOUSTON** — Last night the appointed Houston ISD Board of Managers agreed with the Houston Federation of Teachers that its plan to allow Superintendent Mike Miles to create a secret appraisal system was unlawful.

The board's vote to use the state-adopted T-TESS appraisal system for teachers in the 2023-2024 school year has resolved the emergency that necessitated filing the lawsuit and removed the need for emergency relief by the courts. The adoption of T-TESS means that teachers will be evaluated this year with a lawfully developed appraisal system instead of an illegally developed alternative.

Today, HFT filed a dismissal of its lawsuit and, at the same time, filed a grievance against Mike Miles over this unlawful policy. HFT will now litigate the issue through the grievance process and go back to court, if necessary, after the administrative process is completed.

"It is the job of the Board of Managers to be a guard rail and ensure that the appointed superintendent is following the law, not rubberstamp his every whim," said Chris Tritico, general counsel for HFT. "If they will not do their job and enforce the law that protects students, teachers, and staff, then we will."

Tritico added, "We cannot have our teachers teaching respect for the law in our classrooms, while the superintendent and the board are violating it in the boardroom."

HFT President Jackie Anderson underscored the reason the local union filed the suit in the first place.

“We did not file a lawsuit to escape being evaluated as educators,” Anderson said. “We filed a lawsuit to ensure that the process for teacher evaluations is built upon a solid foundation — one based upon a lawful process.”

Anderson continued, “We are professionals, and we welcome accountability. We expect the same from those in charge. If Mike Miles ever cared to listen to the workforce and community he now leads, he’d know that.”

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*The Houston Federation of Teachers is the largest education union in Houston ISD and represents teachers and certified staff. HFT is affiliated with the 1.7-million-member American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO.*