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1 2 3	WHITEHURST-PAYNE, in her official capacity as Board member; CYNTHIA MARTEN, in her official capacity as Superintendent, Defendants.				
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5	TO PLAINTIFFS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:				
6	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on January 16, 2018, before the Honorable				
7	Cynthia Bashant, United States District Judge, defendants Richard Barrera; Kevin				
8	Beiser; John Lee Evans; Michael McQuary; Sharon Whitehurst-Payne; and Cynthia				
9	Marten will move this Court, pursuant to Rule 12(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil				
10	Procedure, for an order striking paragraphs 72-79, 140 (partial), 228 (partial), and				
11	230 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint. This motion is made on the grounds				
12	that each of these paragraphs is impertinent, immaterial and scandalous under				
13	Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(f).				
14	This motion is made following the conference of counsel that took place on				
15	December 7 and 8, 2017. It is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the				
16	Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the complaint in this matter, and all				
17	documents attached thereto, the court files and records of this action, and upon such				
18	oral argument and other matters as may be presented to the Court at the time of the				
19	hearing. There will be no oral argument unless requested by the Court. The hearing				
20	date of January 16, 2018, is to be used to calculate briefing deadlines.				
21	Dated: December 12, 2017 PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN &				
22	CONNAUGHTON LLP				
23					
24	By: /s/ Michael C. Sullivan MICHAEL C. SULLIVAN				
25	JENNIFER M. FONTAINE				
26	Attorneys for Defendants San Diego Unified School District; Richard Barrera; Kevin				
27	Beiser; John Lee Evans; Michael McQuary;				
28	Sharon Whitehurst-Payne; Cynthia Marten				
EVIN, AN &	2 Case No. 17CV1054 BAS JMA				

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PAUL, PLEVIN,

SULLIVAN & CONNAUGHTON LLP

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Case 3	:17-cv-01054-BAS-JMA Document 1	18-1 Filed 12/12/1	7 PageID.109	Page 2 of 11
1	WHITEHURST-PAYNE, in her o capacity as Board member; CYNT MARTEN, in her official capacity Superintendent,	fficial		
2	MARTEN, in her official capacity	as		
3	Defendants.			
4.	Defendants.			
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Case 3	:17-cv-01054-BAS-JMA Doo	cument 18-1	Filed 12/12/17	PageID.112	Page 5 of 11			
1	OTHER AUTHORITIES							
2	5 Charles A. Wright & Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice and							
3	D 1 0.1000 (1000)							
4	2 Moore's Federal Practice	e § 12.37[3]	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	***************************************		3		
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I.

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs have filed suit against San Diego Unified School District ("SDUSD") as well as SDUSD's board members and Superintendent, claiming violations of their federal and California constitutional and statutory rights through government entanglement with religion and religious discrimination. Plaintiffs have voluntarily agreed to dismiss SDUSD from their First Amended Complaint. (ECF No. 17.) The basis for their claims is that SDUSD initiated an Anti-Islamophobia Initiative to combat bullying of and discrimination against Muslim students, and entered into a partnership with the Council on American-Islamic Relations ("CAIR"), a Muslim civil liberties organization, to further that initiative.

Plaintiffs include several paragraphs addressing impertinent, immaterial, prejudicial and scandalous matter regarding CAIR's alleged ties to terrorism and "anti-Israel agenda." These allegations have no bearing on Plaintiffs' claims against Defendants, and are only included to inflame the public against SDUSD by its association with CAIR. Thus, Defendants respectfully request that the Court strike these allegations under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(f).

II.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs are two community organizations and parents suing individually and on behalf of their minor children. (First Amended Complaint ("FAC") at ¶¶ 8-14.) Plaintiffs bring claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the California constitution, and several provisions of the California Civil Code, Government Code and Education Code, seeking to enjoin the anti-Islamophobia Initiative by SDUSD and partnership between SDUSD and CAIR. (Id. at p. 27-39.) Plaintiffs allege that the Anti-Islamophobia Initiative, although enacted to "combat the bullying of, and discrimination against, Muslim students and their families," instead set up a "subtle, discriminatory scheme that establishes Muslim students as the privileged religious

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27 28 group." (Id. ¶¶ 2-3.) To further that initiative, Plaintiffs allege that SDUSD entered into a partnership with CAIR, a Muslim civil liberties organization, in 2012. (Id. ¶¶ 62, 82.) Plaintiffs claim that this partnership "constitute[s] government entanglement with religion, and grant[s] CAIR-SD ... extraordinary discretion, power, and influence to convey religious messages, including proselytization, to students in an involuntary and coercive environment." (Id. ¶ 122.)

Plaintiffs include several paragraphs addressing CAIR's alleged ties to terrorism and an anti-Israel agenda, which have no bearing on their claims. Specifically, Plaintiffs allege that CAIR is "linked by a complex set of personal, financial, and operational relationships with Islamic extremist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood and especially Hamas, which the United States State Department has designated as a terrorist organization." (Id. ¶ 72.) Plaintiffs go on to allege that CAIR leaders have been convicted of terrorism-related crimes, and have supported Hamas and other terrorists. (Id. ¶¶ 73-75.) Furthermore, the FBI and Department of Justice are unsure as to whether CAIR has ties to Hamas, and the United Arab Emirates designated CAIR as a terrorist organization. (*Id.* ¶¶ 76-78.) CAIR also allegedly has an "anti-Israel agenda," partners with groups that "demonize the Jewish state," and expressed the opinion that "Israel and U.S. law enforcement pose a bigger threat to American Muslims than terrorist groups such as ISIS." (Id. ¶¶ 79, 140, 228.) Plaintiffs also assert that CAIR's ties to Hamas will impact the "objectivity and accuracy of instructional materials related to ... the relationship between the Muslim world and Israel." (*Id.* ¶ 230.)

III.

APPLICABLE LEGAL STANDARDS

The Court has broad discretion to strike "from any pleading any insufficient defense or any redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous matter." Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(f); Fantasy, Inc. v. Fogerty, 984 F.2d 1524, 1528 (9th Cir. 1993), rev'd on other grounds, 510 U.S. 517 (1994); Neilson v. Union Bank of California, N.A.,

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290 F. Supp. 2d 1101, 1152 (C.D. Cal. 2003). By focusing the case on viable issues at the outset, a Rule 12(f) motion "avoid[s] the expenditure of time and money that must arise from litigating spurious issues by dispensing with those issues prior to trial." Sidney-Vinstein v. A.H. Robins Co., 697 F.2d 880, 885 (9th Cir. 1983). Matter is immaterial if it "has no essential or important relationship to the claim for relief or the defenses being pleaded" and impertinent if it "consists of statements that do not pertain, and are not necessary, to the issues in question." Fantasy, Inc., 984 F.2d at 1527 (quoting 5 Charles A. Wright & Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice and Procedure § 1382 (1990)). Similarly, allegations are "impertinent" if they are not responsive or relevant to issues involved in the action and which could not be admitted as evidence in the action. Id. at 1527. Material is "scandalous" if it "improperly casts a derogatory light on . . . a party to the action." Wright & Miller, § 1382; see also 2 Moore's Federal Practice § 12.37[3] at 12–97 ("Scandalous' generally refers to any allegation that unnecessarily reflects on the moral character of an individual or states anything in repulsive language that detracts from the dignity of the court".).

IV. PLAINTIFFS' UNSAVORY ALLEGATIONS OF CAIR'S SUPPOSED TERRORIST AFFILIATIONS SHOULD BE STRICKEN

Plaintiffs include in the FAC derogatory allegations regarding CAIR's affiliation with terrorists and anti-Israel agenda that should be stricken as immaterial, impertinent, and scandalous. Rule 12(f); *Fantasy, Inc.*, 984 F.2d at 1527; *Vess v. Bank of Am., N.A.*, No. 10-920, 2012 WL 113748, at *12 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 13, 2012) (noting federal courts' broad discretion to strike improper allegations).

Through this high profile lawsuit, which is accessible to members of the public and has already garnered public attention, Plaintiffs seek to inflame the public by their scandalous allegations of CAIR's ties to terrorism and anti-Israel agenda. The true purpose of these allegations is revealed by Plaintiffs' allegations

in Paragraph 140:

Defendants' collaborative efforts to vet and revise curricula, library books, and other educational materials with CAIR - an anti-Israel organization that rejects Israel as a legitimate State and adversely demonizes Jewish people - to promote a more "favorable" and "inclusive" depiction of Islam and Muslim culture, poisons the educational environment and advances a particular political and religious viewpoint to a captive student audience.

(Id. ¶ 140 [emphasis added].) Similarly:

Defendants have adopted, distributed, and disseminated instructional materials created, published, and provided by CAIR-CA, whose organizational activities include disparaging Judaism, de-legitimizing Israel's right to exist, and adversely demonizing Jewish people.

(*Id.* ¶ 228 [emphasis added].)¹ Plaintiffs seek to ascribe a nefarious character to SDUSD's relationship with CAIR merely by citing to CAIR's alleged terrorist ties and disparaging of Judaism. However, these allegations do not bear on Plaintiffs' claims that SDUSD has engaged in excessive religious entanglement or religious discrimination; nor do the allegations provide any factual support for Plaintiffs' claims. *See Fire Ins. Exch. v. United States*, No. 15-1196, 2015 WL 11995254, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2015) (striking immaterial allegations to avoid potential discovery "fishing expedition"); *Ghahremani v. Borders Grp., Inc.*, No. 10-1248, 2010 WL 4008506, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 6, 2010) (striking allegations of illegal business "strategy" unrelated to plaintiff's claims).

Plaintiffs provide no factual assertions linking CAIR's political status as an alleged pro-terrorist and anti-Israel organization with CAIR's relationship with SDUSD.² Plaintiffs claim in a conclusory fashion that CAIR's ties to Hamas will

¹ Defendants move to strike only the bolded portions of Paragraph 140 and 228.

² Indeed, many of the allegations predate CAIR's relationship with SDUSD by several years. *See Fantasy, Inc.*, 984 F.2d at 1527 ("Superfluous historical allegations are a proper subject of a motion to strike.") (citation omitted).

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impact the accuracy of instructional materials relating to the relationship between the Muslim world and Israel (id. ¶ 230), but provide no facts sufficient to make this leap between CAIR's ties to Hamas and the instructional materials utilized in the anti-Islamophobia Initiative. Thus, the inclusion of such inflammatory allegations can only be intended to denigrate CAIR, and Defendants by association, in the eyes of members of the public who review the FAC. This material is immaterial, scandalous and prejudicial to Defendants and should be stricken. See Tuck v. Guardian Prot. Servs., Inc., No. 15-1376, 2017 WL 1047122, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 20, 2017) (striking materials included "for no other reason than to cast Defendant in a negative light"); Ingram v. Grant Joint Union High Sch. Dist., No. CIV S082490FCDDADPS, 2009 WL 2941463, at *8 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2009) (striking allegations that school district police are "trigger happy," have improper search procedures, "are not to be trusted" and are "corrupt"); Bureerong v. Uvawas, 922 F. Supp. 1450, 1479 (C.D. Cal. 1996) (striking term "Slave Sweatshop" from First Amended Complaint as immaterial, scandalous, and highly prejudicial where term added nothing to plaintiff's existing material allegations and appeared to be included "only for inflammatory effect").

These allegations are particularly inflammatory and scandalous in light of the political implications of a link between CAIR and organizations such as Hamas, which leads to prejudice to Defendants by even having these allegations included in the FAC. By incorporating such politically charged claims – in a publicly available document that has already attracted press attention - Plaintiffs' clear intent is to attack CAIR on impertinent matters and hope that the scandalous nature of these allegations will confuse the relevant issues and reflect poorly on SDUSD. This is not permissible. See Ghahremani v. Borders Grp., Inc., No. 10-CV-1248-BEN-26 | RBB, 2010 WL 4008506, at *3 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 6, 2010) ("Allegations that cause delay, confusion of issues, and unnecessarily complicate proceedings are examples of prejudice that may properly be stricken.").

Defendants will also suffer prejudice by being forced to respond to these immaterial and impertinent allegations, paragraph by paragraph, in their answer. *In re "Agent Orange" Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 475 F. Supp. 928, 935 (E.D.N.Y. 1979) (granting motion to strike because unnecessary allegations would be burdensome to answer and would prejudice defendants).

Thus, even assuming the truth of Plaintiffs' allegations in paragraphs 72-79, 140, 228, and 230, they provide no factual support for Plaintiffs' claims, are impertinent, immaterial, scandalous, and prejudicial, and should be stricken.

V.

CONCLUSION

Defendants therefore respectfully request that the Court strike Plaintiffs' derogatory allegations concerning CAIR contained in paragraphs 72-79, 140 (partial), 228 (partial), and 230 of the First Amended Complaint.

PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN & CONNAUGHTON LLP

y: /s/ Michael C. Sullivan MICHAEL C. SULLIVAN JENNIFER M. FONTAINE

Attorneys for Defendants San Diego Unified School District; Richard Barrera; Kevin Beiser; John Lee Evans; Michael McQuary; Sharon Whitehurst-Payne; Cynthia Marten

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS FOR QUALITY 11 EDUCATION SAN DIEGO, an 12 unincorporated nonprofit association: SAN DIEGO ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUALITY FOUNDATION, a 13 nonprofit public-benefit corporation; SCOTT HASSON individually and as next friend on behalf of his minor child, C.H.; CHAOYIN HE, individually and as next friend on behalf of her minor child, B.H.; XUEXUN HU, individually and as next friend on behalf of his 17 minor child, R.H.; KEVIN STEEL and MELISSA STEEL, individually and as 18 next friends on behalf of their minor child, K.S.; JOSE VELAZOUEZ. individually and as next friend on 19 behalf of his minor child, J.V., 20

Plaintiffs,

V.

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SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT; RICHARD BARRERA, in his official capacity as Board President; KEVIN BEISER, in his official capacity as Board Vice President; JOHN LEE EVANS, in his official capacity as Board member; MICHAEL MCQUARY in his official capacity as Board member; SHARON WHITEHURST-PAYNE, in her official capacity as Board member; CYNTHIA

MARTEN, in her official capacity as

Case No. 17CV1054 BAS JMA

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO STRIKE ALLEGATIONS FROM PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

[ECF No.]

Judge: Hon. Cynthia Bashant Magistrate Judge: Hon. Jan M. Adler Trial Date: Not Set

1	Superintendent,						
2	Defendants.						
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Presently before the Court is Defendants' Motion to Strike Allegations from Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint. Having read the moving papers, and good cause appearing: IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT: Defendants' Motion to Strike is Granted. Paragraphs 72-79 and 230 are stricken from Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint without leave to amend. The portion of Paragraph 140 stating that "an anti-Israel organization that rejects Israel as a legitimate State and adversely demonizes Jewish people" and the portion of Paragraph 228 stating that "whose organizational activities include disparaging Judaism, de-legitimizing Israel's right to exist, and adversely demonizing Jewish people" are stricken from Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint without leave to amend. IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: , 2018						
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20	Hon. Cynthia Bashant						
21	United States District Judge						
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