

1156 E Juniper Street
Othello, WA 99344
509-331-2820 Home
509-331-2820 Fax



RECEIVED

OCT 30 2019

Public Disclosure Commission

Fax

To:	PDC of Washington State	From:	SEAN BATES
Fax:	509-331-2820	Pages:	
Phone:	509-331-2820	Date:	10/30/2019
Re:	Electioneering in Othello	cc:	Randy Flykt

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please F

Sirs:

Attached, you will find documentary evidence of what we believe to be Electioneering activity as described in RCW 42.17A.555.

Item 1 Candidate Lindsay Prows messages

1 a) Text conversation between candidate Prows and Sean Bates, in which candidate Prows details the circumstances of her leaving her campaign signs with the school secretary at Scootney Springs Elementary School in Othello, for distribution to school staff.

Item 2 Othello School District Superintendent Letters to OSD Staff,

2 a) **Political Candidates or Ballot Propositions. 12/12/2019**

2 b) Second letter to school district staff, **More on Candidates 12/13/2019**

Item 3 Cover letter requesting hardship assistance in filing formal complaint

Sean Bates

1156 E Juniper street

Othello, WA 99344

(509) 331-2820 Home

509-761-0816 Cell

To: PDC of Washington State.

SUBJECT: VIOLATION OF RCW 42.17A.555

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Sirs:

I am asking for hardship assistance. I have been experiencing technical limitations here at my residence in Eastern Washington, and am asking your forbearance with me to please receive these documents via FAX. I can also furnish complete hard copies to Randy Flykt at the Adams County Prosecuting Attorneys office, which includes 2 more pages of the instant screen text (which do not cut to the heart of the matter). I tried to attach all these PDF files to your electronic submission form, but it said I was feeding it too much information. This may be old school, but I know it WILL GET THROUGH. Thanks for your understanding.

STATEMENTS OF IMPACT TO THE PUBLIC: The distribution of political signs at school during business hours, and the posting of said signs in some classrooms at Scootney Springs Elementary did occur during the time of the Othello Fair, which was held September 11-14 of 2019. Distribution of these signs, and posting of the signs in classrooms exposed students to political advertising which parents may or may not wish their children to be exposed to. These potential liabilities were spelled out to Staff in 2 letters by the Superintendent at the time alleged violations occurred. A candidate who posts their advertising in a place forbidden by law exercises an unfair advantage over other candidates who not enjoy similar access to certain facilities. In a word, its cheating.

EVIDENCE of said violations of RCW 42.17A.555 includes the following documents:

- 1) 2 letters to OSD staff dates 12 and 13 September 2019
- 2) Screen shot of conversation with candidate Lindsay Prows to Sean Bates. 3 of 5 pages

POTENTIAL WITNESSES: Scootney Springs secretary Cynthia. School teachers Mrs. Martinez, school teacher Mr. Lockard, as well as various staff including principal and school nurse Janet Axtman.

I certify and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sean Bates



WA State Law - Political Candidates or Ballot Proposition Campaigns

1 message

Chris Hurst <churst@othelloschools.org>
To: OSD Staff <osdstaff@othelloschools.org>

Thu, Sep 12, 2019 at 1:28 PM

Good Afternoon OSD Staff,

With the general election upcoming in November, it is important for staff to remember that Washington State Law prohibits the use of school facilities to support or oppose political candidates or ballot proposition campaigns. School facilities includes **school district equipment, computers, printers, telephones, buildings, supplies and "email"**. District email may not be used to assist in campaign activities, not even if you are "on a break."

Employees do not forfeit their rights to engage in political activity because of employment. You may have campaign signs in your cars -- you just cannot put up signs in the school or school grounds.

If employees have questions about campaign election guidelines for schools, contact my Executive Assistant, Thalia Lemus.

Common Scenarios

Here are a few common scenarios that have been identified by the State's regulatory and enforcement agency, the Washington Public Disclosure Commission (PDC):

- Use of Email. District email may not be used to assist in campaign activities, not even if you are "on a break." You can't even use email for something simple such as telling a campaign committee member that you'll be at a campaign meeting or that you'll wave signs on a certain date.
- Receipt of Email from Others. If you receive a campaign solicitation on your District email, please either ignore the email or respond by stating that District email may not be used for election advocacy. You may, however, engage in campaign activities on your own time, during non-work hours, and without using District resources.
- Use of School Computer. You may not use your school district computer to compose correspondence, develop presentations, or draft/edit any other campaign documents.
- School Building Publications. Building level publications must not be used for campaign messages or activities.
- Communication with Coworkers. You may inform coworkers during non-work hours about campaign activities, but you may never pressure or coerce participation.
- Student Projects. Students may originate school projects for credit that promote or oppose candidates or ballot measures. But those projects may not use District resources that are not regularly and routinely made available for other student projects. And you may not use those or any other student projects to influence an election's outcome.
- Work Hours. You may not engage in campaigning during work hours or with public resources, including gathering signatures, distributing campaign materials, arranging speaking engagements, coordinating phone banks and fundraising.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have further questions, please contact Thalia.

Respectfully,

Kenneth "Chris" Hurst Sr., Ed.D. | Superintendent | Othello School District | 1025 South 1st Avenue, Othello, WA
99344 | O: 509-488-2659 | F: 509-488-5876





More on Candidates

1 message

Chris Hurst <churst@othelloschools.org>
To: OSD Staff <osdstaff@othelloschools.org>

Fri, Sep 13, 2019 at 12:15 PM

Good Afternoon OSD,

I have been asked a couple of questions regarding our Board member candidates (or any candidate) as it relates to sharing our views with our students. I wanted to share my response with everyone, to clarify.

Questions

Are there any rules/laws about teachers spreading their views on candidates during class? Social media?

Response

Per our District Operating Policy (DOP) 5252P, an employee who intends to campaign for an elective office should be advised that the use of students for writing or addressing political materials, or the distribution of such materials to or by students is prohibited and an employee may not campaign for a political candidate or for a political issue during school hours on school property. This includes sharing your perspective about whether a candidate is good or bad.

Additionally, in regards to social media, the OSD also has DOP 5253P that states that soliciting phone, email, text messages or other forms of written or electronic communication to students without building administrator/supervisor and parent permission when the communication is unrelated to school work or other legitimate school business is an inappropriate boundary invasion by staff members. Furthermore, sending or soliciting email, text messages or other electronic communications to a student also represents an inappropriate boundary invasion, even when the communication relates to school business, except where the parent or guardian and building administrator/supervisor has consented to such communications and receives a copy of the communication.

In a nutshell, OSD employees should not be spreading their views on candidates during class or through the use of social media to students. Please let me know if you have questions on this matter.

Respectfully,

Kenneth "Chris" Hurst Sr., Ed.D. | Superintendent | Othello School District | 1025 South 1st Avenue, Othello, WA
99344 | O: 509-488-2659 | F: 509-488-5876



Thank you for your compliments on the forum. I was nervous but tried to be myself, so if that came across, I'm happy. I meant it when I said I think JR would be a great board member. He isn't just my running mate, he is my friend.

I looked and saw the RCW you posted. I have some confusion about your message. You said you have

several situations that fit this law. From your message

it sounds like you are talking about the same situation

several times. I am not sure if you are talking about the same

situation or if you are talking about different situations

that fit the law. I am not sure if you are talking about the same

situation or if you are talking about different situations

that fit the law. I am not sure if you are talking about the same

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that fit the law. I am not sure if you are talking about the same

situation or if you are talking about different situations

OPTIONS

Search in Conversation

Edit Nicknames

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My identity is very important to me. I've never deleted
 anything in my life and I definitely wouldn't start now.
 Not intentionally anyway.

It was the week of the fair, I had just received my yard
 signs via UPS and put up a few around town. I was very
 busy that week because I am the leader of my daughters
 4H club and she shows a pig in the fair. I had some
 friends, who are teachers at Scootney, ask me for a yard
 sign. Thinking NOTHING of it, I hurriedly dropped the

signs off in the front office. I texted my friends and asked
 them to pick up the signs. I never saw the signs. I
 never saw the signs. I never saw the signs.

OPTIONS

Search in Conversation

Edit Nicknames

Change Color

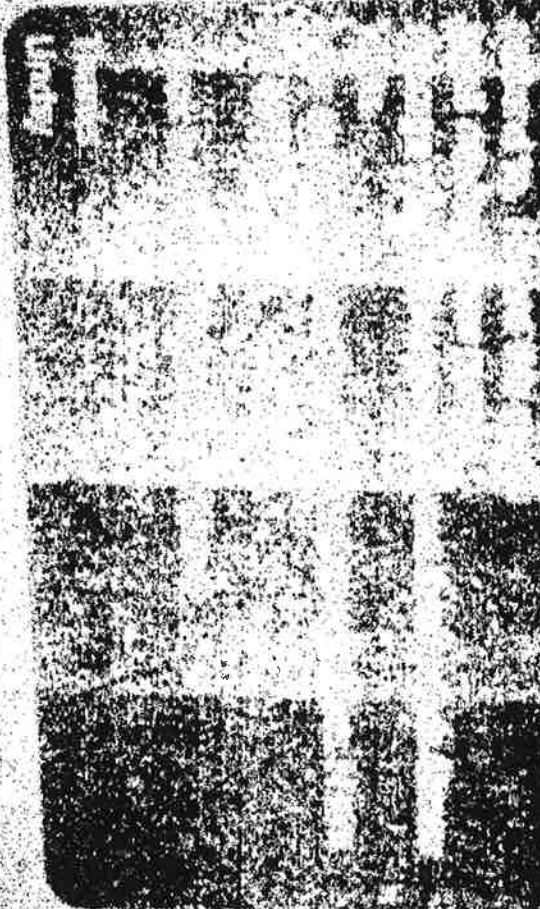
Change Emoji

APR 10 10:58 AM '11

She is a good woman. She's a good mother and grandmother. She has given countless hours to the building up of this community. She is running because she cares. I say good for her. And I mean it.

If you know of several situations that I have cheated and caused mistrust, please enlighten me. I'm genuinely clueless.

I do want to know what you think the right should do



OPTIONS

Search in Conversation

Edit Nicknames

Change Color

Change Emoji

Cancel