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PAUL E. CLAY

November 17, 2019

Mx. Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2
Washington Public Disclosure Commission

VIA EMAIL

Re: Sean Bates and Scootney Springs Elementary School Officials (PDC Case No. 59740)

Dear Mx. Blackhorn:

On behalf of the Othello School District, I have been asked to respond to your November 5, 2019 email. The School District appreciates the opportunity to respond and also the opportunity to review the complaint.

Initially, the School District respectfully raises a concern that the complaint does not seem to identify a school district official or school employee who is responsible for any alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.555. More specifically, no school official or employee has been identified in the complaint who allegedly distributed signs at Scootney Springs Elementary School. Likewise, no school employee has been identified in the complaint who allegedly posted signs in their classroom, exposing students to political advertising. From reading the complaint, it appears those are the only two allegations.

The District does understand that a candidate for elective office dropped off some yard signs advertising her candidacy at the Scootney Springs Elementary School front office. The candidate, however, was not a school official or school district employee. The District also understands that certain school employees stopped by the front office to pick up signs. Again, though, the District has no knowledge of any of official or employee distributing signs or posting signs in their classrooms.

I hope the above is helpful in your initial review of the complaint. Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Clay
Attorney for Othello School District

cc Kenneth "Chris" Hurst Sr., Ed.D., Superintendent
Deborah Buduan, Principal