



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

January 21, 2020

Delivered electronically to "pclay@stevensclay.org"

Subject: Complaint filed by Sean Bates and Eleanor Brodahl, PDC Case 60443

Dear Othello School District Officials:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Sean Bates and Eleanor Brodahl concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Sean Bates and Eleanor Brodahl, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, you may contact Fox Blackhorn at 1-360-753-1980 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

January 21, 2020

Delivered electronically to “seanoneilly@hotmail.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Othello School District Officials, PDC Case 60443

Dear Sean Bates and Eleanor Brodahl:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 22, 2019. The complaint alleged that Othello School District Officials, public employees, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 for authorizing the misuse of public facilities to support the election campaign of Tony Ashton.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and the responses provided by the Respondent, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- PDC Interpretation 01-03, *Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns* allows school districts to make meeting facilities available to campaign committees without violating RCW 42.17A.555, provided they are made available on the same terms and conditions available to other community groups, subject to the provisions of the district’s policy.
- The response to the allegations provided examples of individuals and organizations who had signed facility usage agreements, often with an associated cost, showing that school district facilities have been made available to community groups through a formalized process.
- The response to the allegations also provided three examples of non-political organizations who had been granted access to district facilities without signed usage agreements or charge, such as Steve Lindholm with the Washington Education Association, demonstrating that district facilities have been made available to other individuals and community groups through an informal process.
- Tony Ashton was granted permission to use district meeting facilities on the same terms and conditions available to other individuals and community groups.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, insufficient evidence supports a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Fox Blackhorn at 1-360-753-1980 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at fdc@fdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Othello School District Officials