

Respondent Name
Dan Chaplik
Complainant Name
Ed Husmann
Complaint Description
<p><u>Ed Husmann</u> reported via the portal Mon, 9 Dec 2019 at 11:53AM https://www.facebook.com/pg/SultanSchools/posts/?ref=page_internal</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
<p>Dan Chaplik attempted to influence the outcome of the Sultan School District election of a school Board Member using School District resources to distribute and represent a political position prior to the close of the elections.</p>
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
<p>The below Facebook post was a direct attempt to support a last minute write-in candidate for the election of a Sultan School Board Director. https://www.facebook.com/pg/SultanSchools/posts/?ref=page_internal</p> <p>Sultan School District November 1 · Sultan School District Parents, Students, and Community Members:</p> <p>We would like to share our official position in light of comments made by a Sultan School District Board Director. The comments made by the Director do not reflect the Sultan School District’s Mission, Vision, Goals and Guiding Beliefs for and about our students. First and foremost, we are thankful to have the opportunity to work with your sons and daughters. Our teachers, staff, and administrators show up each and every day, working together, to help your students achieve the excellence that we know that they are capable of. We believe that all students are important, all students can be critical thinkers, and that all students can develop the skills they need to be self-sufficient. There are positive things happening every day on all of our campuses and we couldn’t be prouder of our students and their achievements. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with all of our students and will continue to help each and every student grow and learn academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Dan Chaplik, Superintendent (360) 793-9801</p>
<p><u>Ed Husmann</u> replied Thurs, 12 Dec 2019 at 2:23PM to: "PDC Support" pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov</p> <p>Hi Tabatha, my apologies for not supplying all of the necessary information. My full mailing address is 13420 339th Ave SE, Sultan, WA, 98294.</p>

This situation occurred during the last weeks of the election (Nov 5, 2019) following a School Board meeting (of Oct 28, 2019) in which I questioned a Special Ed. contract between our District and the Overlake Hospital, Bellvue, WA. In part, I asked if these students were educable, thinking that we were in the business of K-12 education. Apparently this caused a last minute write-in campaign (candidate info not available at this time) to un-seat me as a Board member. At issue here is the fact that Dan Chaplik, Sultan School District Superintendent, posted on the Schools Facebook page and/or other communication to the community, using school resources, that directly related to and/or influenced voters regarding my campaign for this position. In regard to when and where the comments were made I am not sure. The only notice of this activity by the Sultan School District was when a friend asked me if I had seen these comments by the School District Superintendent, Dan Chaplik, on Friday, Nov. 1.

Although I was not mentioned by name in the communication, Sultan, WA, is a small community and there was no doubt as to who the reference was aimed at. As the election results show, the number of voters electing the write in candidate was more than 10% greater against me than those of the other two open position in this race. I believe that this post contributed greatly to my opponent, the write-in candidate. My contention is that there was no other reason to initiate this communication to the community at this time, other than for political purposes. In addition, this communication was not approved by the Board of Directors. This certainly was not an activity which could be regarded as a regular conduct of the office of Superintendent.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Public facilities may not be used to support or oppose a candidate or ballot proposition. [RCW 42.17.555](#). Facilities include school district equipment, buildings, supplies, employee work time, and district publications. The statute includes an exception to the prohibition for "activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency."

In summary, the facebook post was authored by Sultan School District Superintendent Dan Chaplik prior to the Nov 5, 2019 Election, certainly at some time between Oct 28, and Nov 1. I was unopposed for the position of School Director #4 until immediately following the Sultan School Board meeting of Oct. 28, 2019. I was not aware of Superintendent Dan Chaplik's public communication until Fri. Nov. 1, 2019. I am also unaware of any other activities that Superintendent Chaplik may have had in this election process. The write-in candidate was Heidi, not sure of the last name, the SnoCo Auditor seems to be busy with a re-count, I will get the information concerning Heidi to you as soon as the Auditor can get it to me.

Thank you very much for your time, I hope I have provided you with a better picture of these circumstances. I have also attached a letter that I read into the record at the next Board Meeting of Nov 12, 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information that you may need.

Ed Husmann

Ed Husmann replied Fri, 13 Dec 2019 at 12:45PM
to: "PDC Support" pdcc@pdc.wa.gov

Hi again Tabatha please add to the information that I sent yesterday, the write-in candidate in my race was Heidi Dawson who filed with the SnoCo Auditor on Nov 1, 2019. Thanks again,
Ed Husmann

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Kate Roesler 425 330 6362 roeslermk@msn.com

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or 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.

November 12, 2019

Good Evening, I'm Ed Husmann

Well, it's been an interesting couple of weeks.

The purpose of this summary is to relate the facts concerning the events that have taken place since our last Board meeting.

1). Apparently, my question concerning agenda item 12 of the Board Packet of October 28, 2019, was taken out of context and the intent misunderstood. This has caused some in our community to become upset. This was a QUESTION not a STATEMENT. It was a question regarding the authorization of a contract between Sultan School District and Overlake Hospital & Medical Center in Bellevue. Actually, there are 2 contracts in question, one for each student, totaling \$216,000.00 (one for \$84,000.00 & one for \$132,000.00). Interestingly, these contracts were already signed on July 1, 2019 by a Gayle Wilson (as the person authorized to "bind" said district to the foregoing agreement). ***This raises several questions...***

2). I was completely unaware of any issues concerning the Monday board meeting until King 5 news called at 10am Thursday, October 31. They were requesting an interview at 11am regarding my question. Also, at that time the reporter informed me of a write-in campaign to unseat me. I have no problem with running a contested race; however, to act in secret at the last minute is another matter, ***and raises more questions...***

3). On Nov 1 at 1:51pm, Superintendent Dan Chaplik published and distributed a message to the Sultan Community, excluding myself. The message in part stated: *"the comments made by the director does not reflect the sultan school district's mission, vision, goals and guiding beliefs for and about our students"...* I received a copy from a neighbor at a later time. The content and manner in which this message was conveyed ***raises even more questions...***

To be clear - I was elected by the constituents in this community to serve on the Sultan School Board and as such my decisions should reflect the community interests. One of the important jobs of a school board member is to oversee how your tax dollars / our tax dollars are being spent. The truth is; I dared to ask the hard question as to how your tax dollars were being spent between Overlake Hospital and the Sultan School District.

At no point did I ever make the STATEMENT that ALL special needs children are un-educatable. Rather, my QUESTION was directed only to the 2 contracts and whether this expense was reasonable & appropriate. ***I simply asked a question...***

As a current member of Sultan School Board, and a tax payer in this community for over 40 years, I or anyone else for that matter, should be able to ask financial questions freely without being bullied, targeted or shamed. After all, any and all School District expenditures are a matter of public interest and record.

In regard to these events and how they occurred, is greatly disturbing and certainly distracts from the purpose of our job. If I have the privilege of being re-elected to this honorable position, it is my hope that we, as a Board, can move forward working together to bring transparency and prudent spending to our community.

It is my earnest desire that we provide ***ALL*** children a safe and thriving learning environment. ***I will continue to ask the hard questions***

Respectfully Submitted,
Ed Husmann
Sultan School Board Member