

Dan.chaplik replied Mon, 30 Dec 2019 at 2:33PM
to: "PDC Support" <cdc@cdc.wa.gov>

Ms. Blacksmith,

Please find my response to PDC case 61260 attached. I have also attached some items that are related and might assist in filling in the blanks. There are links to the King 5 news reports that are within the response that should help provide context to how things got to where they are. If I can be of assistance in anyway please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dan

Dan Chaplik, Superintendent
Sultan School District #311
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PDC response 12-29-2019.docx
36.97 KB

VoiceMail_11_1_2019.mp3
192.99 KB

Supt letter.docx
12.6 KB

10-28-2019 Board Discussion Overlake 5 minutes.mp4
7.09 MB

Board Member Response to the Community - 11-12 mtg.pdf
508.92 KB



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SULTAN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 311

514 4th Street • Sultan, Washington 98294
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December 27, 2019

Dan Chaplik, Superintendent
Sultan School District
514 4th Street
Sultan, WA 98294

Ms. Tabitha Blacksmith,

I am writing to you today as the Respondent to Case Number 61260 that was filed by Complainant Ed Hussman. In case anybody is not aware, I am the superintendent of the Sultan School District and Mr. Ed Hussman is a school board director of district #4 in the Sultan School District. I deny any effort to try to influence the outcome of the school board election from my position as school district superintendent of school director district #4 based on a letter I sent to the community on November 1, 2019 or in any other manner. Whatever write-in campaign that emerged or may have been contemplated by any other parties happened as a direct result of the words Mr. Hussman said himself in board meetings and on the news. The purpose of my November 1, 2019 letter was to reassure the community that Mr. Hussman's comments about special education students did not reflect the official policies of our district. The timing of this communication was based on the need to respond to the significant community reaction to Mr. Hussman's comments. It was not in any way motivated by his upcoming unopposed election campaign.

The following is a timeline of events leading up to and following my November 1, 2019 communication:

October 28, 2019

The events of this current situation began unfolding at our regular board business meeting on October 28th, 2019. As the agenda was being discussed, Mr. Hussman made reference to a contract the Sultan School District has with Overlake Specialty School where we send two students that was in the consent agenda. I have attached an audio link to the 5-minute segment of the meeting that is the first conversation that brought Mr. Hussman's thoughts in view to the public. There were 5-10 people in the audience on this particular evening and I assume that one of the people in attendance contacted the media and voiced their concerns.

October 31, 2019

Sometime during the late morning hours on October 31, 2019 an employee in the district office came to my office to inform me that the media was out in front of the district office filming the building. I looked out in front of the district office and sure enough there was in fact a cameraman out front filming. I was anticipating that they would come in to want to talk to me but that never did happen and when I looked out the window there was nobody there. About 45 minutes later I received a call from the middle school principal who stated that there was a news camera out in front of the middle school filming and when he went out to ask what he was doing the cameraman indicated they were up in Sultan because of comments that were made at the school board meeting on the 28th and that one of the students who



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attended Overlake Specialty School was a middle school student. I then called School Board Chairman Russ Sumpter and we agreed that he would call Mr. Hussman to give him a heads up as to what was transpiring with the media in town. When I talked to Mr. Sumpter a couple of hours later he informed me that he had talked to Mr. Hussman and at that point he was told by Mr. Hussman that Mr. Hussman had already conducted an interview with King 5 news. That evening the interview aired on King 5 news. The link to the interview is [HERE](#).

November 1, 2019

The day after the King 5 interview with Mr. Hussman, I was chairing a Superintendents Advisory Committee meeting in Anacortes, WA and was not in my office until mid-day. Friday morning, November 1 the school district was met with quite a bit of animosity in light of the comments made to King 5 by Mr. Hussman. I have attached one voicemail that awaited me when I returned to my office. As the result of the interview and subsequent concern it raised, I discussed putting out a statement to the community with our school board chairman, Russ Sumpter. He approved the final version that ultimately went out to the community in the various ways that we communicate information which include Facebook and our website. I have attached a copy of my letter to the community.

November 12, 2019

Our next school board meeting was scheduled for November 12, 2019. King 5 was in attendance and you can see their report of the meeting right [HERE](#). I have also made a copy of a statement that Mr. Hussman read to the audience to open the meeting.

In conclusion, there was no effort on my behalf to influence the outcome of the November 5, 2019 school board election either in my action or with the letter I sent to the community on November 1, 2019. It is my opinion that whatever write-in campaign that emerged did so because of the comments made at the board meeting they observed on October 28th or the subsequent interviews by Mr. Hussman that the community could have watched on King 5 news that were first aired on October 31st. As superintendent it is a part of my job to communicate with the community about our programs and policies, and to respond as appropriate to press coverage, whether negative or positive. The timing of my communication was not influenced by the November 5 election; the timing was based on the fact that Mr. Hussman first made his comments on October 28 and was in response to the intense negative press coverage and public reaction that immediately followed.

Sincerely,

Dan Chaplik, Superintendent
Sultan School District

November 1, 2019

12:51 pm

Sultan School District Parents,

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.

[Link to the 2019 District Mission, Vision, and Goals.](#)

[Link to the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.](#)

Thank you,

Dan Chaplik

Superintendent Dan Chaplik

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