

[Auburncitizens4schools](#) replied 2 days ago

To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

PDC Case Number 73816

Subject: Re: PDC - Auburn Citizens for Schools (ACS): Alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failure to timely & accurately report expenditures and carry forward cash & in-kind contributions for election years 2016 & 2020. (Jul '20)

Thank you for bringing this to our attention and giving us the opportunity to resolve this issue. The Auburn Citizens for Schools is a group of volunteers that are interested in helping improve the overall Auburn community by supporting the Auburn School District – something I think the Public would appreciate. Our members take this responsibility seriously and make the extra effort to help our community excel. We apologize in advance for the perception that there was any ill-conceived notion as suggested by said ‘complaints’. Upon further review, our intent is to show the PDC that the complaints issued were related to misunderstandings and will be resolved; not any illegal intent.

As it is the summer and we have various board members on holiday, we would like to request an extension to have time to review/respond to each complaint and ensure our paperwork is in compliance with standards defined by the PDC.

Complaint #1a:

“Failure to account for missing funds. This PAC appears to have failed to account for at least \$1,395.23 which appears to have disappeared from this PAC’s bank account without any reporting for where it when or who received these funds.”

In 2016, Auburn Citizens for Schools (ACS) ran two campaigns. The current board (2020) was just starting with ACS between the two campaigns as entry-level volunteers. ACS was in the middle of committee member changes during that time and it later came to light reports were not being filed as thought. Our current treasurer worked to rectify our records in order to file the necessary reports. We recognize that mistakes may have been made as we learned how to do this, but they were corrected as they were discovered.

We have identified \$838.18 worth of receipts out of the \$1395.23 (attached). Assuming we are granted an extension, our intent is to locate the rest of the receipts that are available.

Complaint #1b:

“First, I want to point out, one of the fundamental problems with how this PAC is organized, and which may contribute to missing funds or unreported funds like this is the fact that it appears to be structured as a ‘Single Year Committee’ when it functions in fact as a ‘Continuing Committee’.”

ACS recognizes this is a valid point and appreciate it being recommended. Our current treasurer has talked extensively with a representative of the PDC and together they decided we should file as a Single Year Committee. Upon reflection, now that we have more experience, we see the value of changing to a “Continuing Committee” and intend to do so in the near future. There was no ‘illegal’

intent in how ACS was managed during this time, but rather efforts made to ensure ACS was operating correctly.

Complaint #2:

“Failure to provide legally required details in expenditure reports.”

We have reviewed the initial examples as identified and will review/respond with any updates. As previously explained, ACS will update our reporting to include required information as related to the examples identified and will include that information in future reports which we will continue to file in as timely a manner as possible.

Thank you again for your consideration and time in reviewing our request for extension.

Cari Manry, President
Auburn Citizens for Schools