



State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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April 25, 2019

Delivered electronically to David Olson

Subject: David Olson Complaint Return with Reminder Cover Letter, PDC Case 25012

Mr. Olson:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Katie Platt concerning the complaint she filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against you. As noted below in the electronic letter to Ms. Platt, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into the allegations or taking enforcement action in this matter.

However, PDC staff is reminding you concerning the prohibitions of using Peninsula School District facilities and resources in the future to assist any candidate for public office, including your candidacy, or to support or oppose any ballot proposition in accordance with PDC laws, rules and PDC Interpretation #01-03.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.75(1). If you have questions, you may contact me at (360) 664-8854, or by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

s/\_\_\_\_\_  
BG Sandahl, Deputy Director for  
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



**Public Disclosure Commission**  
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972



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April 25, 2019

Delivered electronically to Katie Platt

Subject: Complaint regarding David Olson, PDC Case 25012

Dear Ms. Platt:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 11, 2017. Your complaint alleged that David Olson, an incumbent School Director for the Peninsula School District (PSD) and a candidate for re-election to that office in 2017, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using school district facilities to support his candidacy for office. Specifically, you stated David Olson took “photos and videos of children on their first day at school...without knowledge or consent of their parents during school hours. He then posted the media to his campaign Facebook page, which he pays to promote”.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in your complaint, the statute, rules, and PDC Interpretation #01-03 Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns, and the response from David Olson. As a result of staff’s review, we found the following:

- RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits public agencies from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting any candidate for public office, or from supporting or opposing any ballot measure.
- PDC statute, rules, and PDC Interpretation #01-03 allows school districts to make its facilities available on a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis for political and other uses, provided that special privileges or access is not provided to one citizen over another citizen. The statutory prohibition referenced above does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the school district.
- On April 8, 2017, David Olson filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for re-election as a PSD School Director in 2017, and selecting the Mini Reporting Option, and listing himself as Treasurer. On May 24, 2017, he filed an amended C-1 report changing options to the Full Reporting Option and listing Jason Michaud as Treasurer. Mr. Olson is an incumbent PSD School Director since being elected to that office in 2013.
- Mr. Olson stated that it has been common for PSD School Directors “to attend various school events and functions” and added that “I did not have special access to school property on the opening day of school nor was I taking advantage of public office hours.”

- Mr. Olson stated that “As you can see from the photos attached to the complaint, there were hundreds of parents attending these opening day events and taking photos of their children and the children around them.” He added that on the first day of school in September of 2017 he was in attendance and “in common areas in front of the school and in the hallway” at several schools in the district.
- Mr. Olson stated that he was aware of other PSD School Director were also in attendance during the first day of school ceremonies, and that those individuals also “posted photos of students on their Facebook pages – again, this is a standard practice.”
- Mr. Olson stated he was notified by PSD staff about the photos appearing on his campaign Facebook pages, and that he “immediately removed the photos from my Facebook page.” He stated that the PSD “Superintendent consulted with the District’s legal counselor and it was suggested that since I immediately removed the photos in question, I was not using school resources or school district photos, and I was not taking advantage of special access, that I did not violate school district policy or any RCW.”

Based on the findings, and the facts that Mr. Olson took corrective action and removed the photographs from his Campaign Facebook page when notified by the school district, and has no prior PDC violations, PDC staff has determined in this instance, the facts do not warrant further investigation.

However, PDC staff is reminding David Olson concerning the prohibitions of using Peninsula School District facilities and resources to assist any candidate for public office, including his candidacy, or to support or oppose any ballot proposition in accordance with PDC laws, rules and PDC Interpretation #01-03.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact me at (360) 664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

s/\_\_\_\_\_  
BG Sandahl, Deputy Director for  
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: David Olson

