



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

June 11, 2018

Delivered electronically to Lester Porter, Jr. w/Porter Foster Rorick LLP “buzz@pfrwa.com”

Subject: Shoreline School District/Heather Hiatt Complaint Return Cover Letter, PDC Case 33223

Mr. Porter, Jr.:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to John Mount concerning the complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against your client, the Shoreline School District, and Heather Hiatt, a Principal in the Shoreline School District, John Green, Vice-Principal, and Vollie Berry, a School District Counselor.

As noted below in the electronic letter to Mr. Mount, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, please contact PDC staff member Kurt Young by e-mail at kurt.young@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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June 11, 2018

Delivered electronically to John Mount at “johnc.mount@comcast.net”

Subject: Complaint filed against staff members of Shoreline School District, PDC Case 33233

Mr. Mount:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 14, 2018. Your complaint alleged that the Shoreline School District, and specifically Heather Hiatt, a Principal in the Shoreline School District, John Green, Vice-Principal, and Vollie Berry, a School District Counselor, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using the facilities of the Shoreline School District to support or oppose a Washington State ballot initiative.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in your complaint, the statutes and rules, and the response from Lester Porter, Jr., Porter Foster Rorick LLP, and as a result we found the following:

- RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot propositions. Staff would note the statute does not apply to activities that support or oppose pending or proposed legislation before the Washington State Legislature, or what is referred under PDC statutes and regulations as “lobbying.”
- Mr. Porter, Jr. stated the complaint alleged activities that supported “a bill pending before the legislature (SB 5050) and not a candidate for elective office or a ballot proposition. As such, the allegations cannot constitute a violation of RCW 42.17A.555.”
- Mr. Porter, Jr. stated the student “protest march” occurred during school hours, was initiated by the students to protest gun violence, and was not organized or supported by the Shoreline School District. He stated an independent investigator hired by the school district found no evidence in her preliminary findings “that Ms. Hiatt or any other District administrator encouraged students, including Mr. Mount’s sons, to participate in the walkout.”
- Mr. Porter, Jr. stated that Mr. Mount “filed a “formal complaint of professional misconduct” with the superintendent of the Shoreline School District on the evening of March 14.... The complaint filed with the Shoreline School District alleged violations of various District policies and state laws, including but not limited to removal of children from campus without parent consent, endangering a child... RCW 42.17A.555 and PDC guidelines.”

- PDC reviewed a March 15, 2018 article in the Shoreline Area News, and several pictures that were included along with the article that had been taken at the march. The article stated in part “There were students who had voting forms and a petition for students to sign to ask the Shoreline school board to pass a resolution to ask state legislators to pass SB 5050”. Staff’s review of the photographs included with the article, found no signs (which all appear to have been homemade) urging a “call to action” in support of SB 5050 or even mentioning SB 5050, so there was no grassroots lobbying of State Legislation undertaken at the march.
- The student petition in which signatures were gathered at the event, requested the Shoreline School District Board to adopt a resolution at a school board meeting in support of SB 5050. While those activities may have constituted a local “grassroots” lobbying effort directed at the school board to “take action” in support of state legislation, local lobbying activities are not under the PDC’s jurisdiction. In addition, students that participated in the march and distributed voter registration forms at the event were not supporting a candidate or ballot proposition, or state legislation.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, there is no evidence that supports a finding of a material violation warranting further investigation. The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young by e-mail at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Lester Porter, Jr., Porter Foster Rorick LLP

