



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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May 5, 2021

Delivered electronically to "recordstransferacct@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding South Kitsap School District Officials, Tim Winters, Superintendent, PDC Case 85424

Dear Robert Parker:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on February 6, 2021. Your complaint alleged that South Kitsap School District Officials, Tim Winter, Superintendent, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by allowing school buses, and/or employee time, to be used to arrange school buses for a promotional photograph to be used by South Kitsap School Supporters on its website.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes and rules, and the response provided by Tim Winter, Superintendent, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Superintendent Tim Winter stated the school bus photo of the District's High School with the buses parked in a configuration reading "SK 20" was specifically for celebration of the District's 2020 graduates. He said since the COVID-19 pandemic precluded all typical celebrations for graduating seniors, South Kitsap, like many districts, asked its Transportation Department to take part in this training exercise/celebration of students. The photo was released for the 2020 graduating class in June of 2020 and has been used by the District since that time. Superintendent Winter stated there was no election related context or purpose for the photo. He said the purpose in its entirety at the time it was commissioned was celebration of the Class of 2020. The photo was posted on social media and website to celebrate the Class of 2020.
- The caption to the photo read, "Behind you, all your memories. Before you, all your dreams. Around you, all who love you. Within you, all you need! Congratulations Class of 2020!"
- South Kitsap School Supporters, the committee supporting the February 9, 2021 levy, said the photo was taken down from the District's Facebook page long before the levy campaign started.

The committee said they were under the impression the photo was in the public domain. The committee said, moving forward they will be sure not to use images from SKSD, even if they were taken before the campaign timeline and are not copyrighted.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation warranting further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman*

Phil Stutzman  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

*Electronically Signed Barbara Sandahl*

Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Frey Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: South Kitsap School Supporters