

<b>Respondent Names</b>
Kent School Board of Directors
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Joseph Riley
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><u><a href="#">Joe Riley</a></u>  reported via the portal  <i>(Tue, 29 Oct 2024 at 10:22 AM)</i></p> <p>On October 28, KSD Communications sent an email to all staff with information about a proposed levy on the November ballot. This email contains a link to a video that strongly suggests there will be staffing cuts if the proposed levy fails.</p> <p>Notably, there was a similar email sent to staff last fall that included language similar to what is in the video. I filed a PDC complaint about that email, which is linked in the evidence. The district submitted a Statement of Understanding signed by Superintendent Vela which specifically mentioned the language in the email connecting a failed levy to job cuts. The video contains a very similar quote as the one mentioned in the Statement of Understanding, which means the district should have known this action was inappropriate.</p>
<b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>
Staff were sent an email containing a link to a video that strongly suggests there will be staffing cuts if the proposed levy fails. This is emotional/inflammatory language designed to gain support for the levy amongst staff.
<b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>
<p>Attached file - October2024StaffEmail.jpg</p> <p>The email sent to staff containing the video link.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Case 142420 - <a href="https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/enforcement-cases/142420">https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/enforcement/enforcement-cases/142420</a></p> <p>This case is still open, and the 5th complaint is regarding a very similar email with a similar threat from last fall. There is also an attached Statement of Understanding, signed by the superintendent, which specifically mentions this admitted violation:</p> <p>""</p> <p>A September 5, 2023, email from the acting superintendent to District staff stating:  “failure of either of these levies would mean significant reductions in staff and services,</p>

negatively impacting the organization's staff that works tirelessly to meet the needs of our students every day."

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The video linked in the email - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqhMCbw7phk>

I've also submitted a complaint about the video itself (#160192), however this complaint is about the fact that it was sent to all staff. The following quote is from the video, and is very similar to the quote above listed in the Statement of Understanding:

""

...without the necessary funding, we face job losses that could impact our dedicated staff...

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**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them**

N/A

**Certification (Complainant)**

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.