



**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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

May 18, 2023

Delivered electronically to “info@supportferndaleschools.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Glen Morgan, PDC Case 122206

Dear Support Ferndale Schools:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Mr. Morgan, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to comply with the filing requirements noted in the enclosed letter sent to Mr. Morgan. Staff expects you to comply with anonymous contribution limits in the future as required by statute.

The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



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May 18, 2023

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at “glen@wethegoverned.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Support Ferndale Schools PAC, PDC Case 122206

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 6, 2023. The complaint alleged that Support Ferndale Schools PAC, a political committee registered with the PDC to support Ferndale School District 502 School Program & Operations Replacement Levy (Proposition 2022-1) for the February 8, 2022, special election, may have violated RCW 42.17A.220

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Treasurer Holly Graham on behalf of the Respondent; the applicable PDC reports filed by the Respondent; queried the Respondent’s data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On December 7, 2021, Support Ferndale Schools PAC (Committee) submitted a Committee Registration (C-1pc report), choosing the “Full Reporting” option, and listing Celina Rodriguez as Campaign Manager, Heather Leighton as Campaign Chair, Holly Graham as Treasurer, and Kelly Warner as Deputy Treasurer.
- RCW 42.17A.220(4) states in part that “accumulated unidentified contributions..., in excess of one percent of the total accumulated contributions received in the current calendar year, or three hundred dollars, whichever is more, may not be deposited, used, or expended, but shall be returned to the donor if his or her identity can be ascertained. If the donor cannot be ascertained, the contribution shall escheat to the state and shall be paid to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund.”
- The complaint alleged that in calendar year 2022, the Committee accepted anonymous contributions in the amount of \$430 which was \$130 more than the allowable limit of \$300.
- In her response, Holly Graham stated that the Committee acknowledges a mistake was made when accepting anonymous contributions totaling \$430 and submitted payment in the amount of \$130 to the State Treasurer to remedy the error.
- PDC staff noted that the Committee disclosed an expenditure on May 7, 2023, to the State of Washington for \$130 per RCW 42.17A.220(4).

It appears that the receipt of the anonymous funds in excess of the \$300 limit was unintentional and not done to purposely conceal the source of contributions from the public. In addition, the Committee's action to escheat the excess funds is a mitigating factor in this case.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the receipt of \$130 of anonymous funds in excess of the \$300 permissible limit does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, Support Ferndale Schools PAC will receive a formal written warning concerning the receipt of anonymous funds in excess of the \$300 limit per RCW 42.17A.220(4). The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that the Committee comply with anonymous contribution limits in the future. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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 Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Support Ferndale Schools PAC