
BOARD BULLETIN: Ethics Complaint

1 message

Didway, Larry <larry.didway@orecity.k12.or.us>

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To: Martha Spiers <martha.spiers@orecity.k12.or.us>, Steven Soll <steven.soll@orecity.k12.or.us>, Anna Farmer <anna.farmer@orecity.k12.or.us>, Evon Tekorius <evon.tekorius@orecity.k12.or.us>, Pamela White <pamela.white@orecity.k12.or.us>, Connie Curteman <Connie.Curteman@orecity.k12.or.us>, Scott Dahlman <scottjdahlman@gmail.com>
Bcc: Larry Didway <larry.didway@orecity.k12.or.us>

BOARD BULLETIN

Dear Board Members & Scott:

By now, you have received a [letter](#) from the Executive Director of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) and the [original complaint](#) from Linda and Ken Pomeroy.

Earlier today, I spoke with Susan Meyers, the assigned OGEC investigator. Based on our conversation, I now believe public meeting law was violated when the board voted on the matter while still in executive session. The school board should have held the vote in a public session or used "fist to five" to help reach consensus about whether or not to place the matter on a future board agenda. If not, by taking no action the board would have sustained the decision already rendered by Andy Jones. **I need to offer my sincere apology for failing to interrupt when the motion was made and subsequent vote was taken. I should have realized this was a public meeting law violation as soon as the motion was made.**

I am preparing a letter of explanation, and including the meeting agenda and recording for Susan Meyers on behalf of the district and all board members. Susan said that it would be helpful if each board member also sends a personal statement that acknowledges and accepts individual responsibility for the error and apologizes for the unintentional violation. I would also suggest that we all complete the [OSBA webinar on executive sessions](#) before the end of spring break and debrief the content in a future work session, perhaps with counsel or someone from OSBA.

This complaint is in "preliminary review" (for 30 days) by Susan Meyers, who will then submit a report to the commission to recommend opening an investigation. (This is a foregone conclusion based upon my call with her today.) The commission can determine at that time to move to dismiss the complaint (again, foregone conclusion that this WON'T happen) or find that a violation occurred (foregone conclusion that this WILL happen) and impose a sanction. Sanctions are imposed on each individual who was present in official capacity when the violation occurred. The range of sanction is a "Letter of Education" (most likely) up to a \$1000 fine (very unlikely). Our complete transparency, cooperation and submitted individual statements will significantly increase the likelihood the sanction will be educational rather than punitive.

Again, please accept my sincere apologies. I accept full responsibility as the CEO for the district. I should have known a violation was occurring and interrupted it the moment.

I will keep you informed moving forward. Please direct any questions to Martha and me, or feel free to contact Susan Meyers directly.

Last, I want to share with you the [media correspondence](#) between Raymond Rendleman, OC News Editor, and Lisa Normand, the district spokesperson.

Warm regards,
-Larry



Larry Didway, Superintendent

Oregon City School District No. 62

1417 12th Street | PO Box 2110 | Oregon City, OR 97045

phone: 503.785.8430 | fax: 503.657.2492 | email: larry.didway@orecity.k12.or.us