



Deer Park
SCHOOL DISTRICT

9 September 2024

Deer Park School District
Attn: President, School Board
N. 428 Main
Deer Park, Washington 99006

Sequence: 2024-010c Bullying Incidents

Dear School Board President and Directors,

At our 26 August DPSD School Board Meeting, I was surprised when Eric stated we would do nothing when it came to the bullying investigation addressed in my 26 August letter to the Deer Park School Board. Eric claimed [filing bullying] procedures were not performed properly, and Superintendent Allman said the bullying reporting procedures are on the website. As I stated folks [Voigtlaender and Lusk families] came forward at the school board on May 13th asking for action, so I felt obligated to investigate at our level. I was lead to believe that the families did not go to see Superintendent Allman. After some discussion Eric told me to explain to the families in question to follow the proper procedures. I have given a lot of thought since our meeting, and I am still struggling with this bullying situation. I still recall that after the student confide the bullying incident at that board meeting, I asked Superintendent Allman if she knew about it, and she said, "Yes." Then Eric stated he knew of the case and gave some account that it was being investigated. Was it not at the Superintendent's level at that point? Or was it reported to the principal's level and not the superintendent's? In any regard, I feel as a school board we were obligated at the 13 May meeting to discuss "next procedures" with those families. At the same 26 August school board meeting Eric and Superintendent Allman pointed out that I was not allowed to see bullying incident reports, especially when it came to student information/privacy. As an elected public official, am I not entrusted to see all sensitive information? What Washington law or regulation prevents school board directors from reviewing bullying incident reports?

With regards,
Gerald F. Ashby
Deer Park School Board Director, #4