



Deer Park
SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 June 2024

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

Sequence: 2024-001d, DP School Board Meetings and Related OPMA Concerns

Dear School Board President and Directors,

Last Wednesday Eric Keller and I met to discuss our goals for the DPSD and discuss school board communication.

One difference in our approaches to DPSD issues is clear. Eric feels we need to sit at board meeting and let issues come forth from the parents/guardians and from the public before acting. While I am in agree that issues brought forth to school board directors should be redirected to the right level within the district, but when there are known or new issues that are at our level, we need to proactively represent our constituents' interests. Thanks to my military training, I am a proactive problem solver and work to reduce risk. The lingering issues with DPE Parent Drop-off/Pick-up, Passing the Bond, Transportation Facility, etc., which are strategic in nature, should always be welcomed in discussions at our level. Eric also shared you may feel I am trying to "push solutions" or "perform operations." I am trying to "1. Present problems with ideas/solutions for discussion/actions" and "2. Assist operations by lessen their burdens in #1." I also feel our superintendent is carrying the heavy burden of both the operations and strategic work.

Since presenting my letters to the directors since January, I expected a level of discussion from all school board members and our superintendent within 2-4 weeks. To date, only Eric answers them via email. I write these letters to ensure my voice to the board is heard publically and to generate a level of discussion with all board members, while including the superintendent. My ideas and solutions have always been presented as "discussion points" to address the issue and work toward a better solution. I also understand from Eric that my letters are reviewed by the DPSD lawyer, costing our district \$500-1,000, to help formulate Eric's emails responses to me. I find this very perplexing when I am simply trying to bring forth issues for board discussion and increase public support/awareness of our efforts.

ENSURING THE FUTURE BY INSPIRING EXCELLENCE



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As I stated at the 28 school board meeting, our minutes are "incomplete" and grossly do not represent and summarize our school board meetings. I strongly feel that "continued omission of key facts presented during the discussion" violates OPMA.

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