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Dan Simon

Date: Tue 21 Nov 2023 09:22:03 AM -0500

Cc: Devon Conley <dconley@grantps.net>

Subject: just a heads up

📎 RachalsPost11.5.23.jpeg ((165 kb))

Good Morning Mr. Zuver, Mr. Maksimchuk, and Mr. Simon,

I wanted to give you all a heads up about a complaint I filed with the Office of Civil Rights against Rachal Gort. On 11/5/23, Rachal made a post on facebook in response to the news that recall petitions would be filed against her, Ken, and Richard on 11/6/23. In this post she alleges that we lied to gain signatures, and urges people to get their signatures removed before they could see who signed it. I (and many others) perceived this post to be a form of voter intimidation, and filed a complaint about it to the Office of Civil Rights.

I received a response from the OCR last Friday with a docket number for my complaint and a statement that they are evaluating my complaint to determine whether it is an issue their office has the authority to investigate. I have been asked to sign a consent form to use my name in this investigation, and I do plan to sign it and return it to them today--which is why I wanted to let you all know about it ahead of time, because I am obviously married to a teacher within the school district. Devon and I have both signed the petitions, and I have made no secret that I am involved with the committee working to collect signatures and secure a recall election. While we have no concerns about retribution from any of you, I do have concerns about what may come from the school board as the recall moves forward.

I am not aware of any time when any volunteers lied to gain signatures on the petitions--the approved petition language is pretty simple and clear. I am aware of several instances when teachers and other community members were afraid to sign them because of possible retribution if their signatures became publicly known. Rachal's inappropriate use of social media for school board business is an ongoing problem, and I'm sure you all can understand why this particular post was concerning (I have attached it in case you haven't seen it already).

I have no idea whether this complaint will amount to anything beyond an investigation. It was not my intention to have another civil rights lawsuit brought against the school district, but that could be a possible outcome of this complaint. I will do my best to keep you informed of any developments with this situation.

Thank you for your time and all you do for our teachers and students!

Mindy Conley