MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
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James Klahr
Executive Director

July 20, 2015

Julie Vanover
Platte County R-3 School District
998 Platte Falls Road
Platte City MO 64079

MEC No. 15-0035-I

Dear Ms. Vanover:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against Platte County R-3 School District, Board of Education and Superintendent Michael Reik at its July 20, 2015 meeting. The complaint alleged that district staff violated Section 115.646, RSMo, when it used public funds to support an April 2015 school levy proposal to be voted on by district voters.

The Commission reviewed the allegations that district staff used school resources to support the April 2015 school levy proposal. The complaint alleges that Quality Platte County R-III Schools, a continuing committee supporting the April 2015 proposal, used the district address and phone number when it filed its Statement of Committee Organization with the Commission. The district responded that the committee amended its Statement of Committee Organization in January 2015 to use the treasurer's address rather than the district address. In addition, the district responded that, to the extent communications intended for the committee were received by the district before the committee changed its address, district staff would forward the communication to the committee. The district stated that it did not organize or store any campaign materials.

The complaint further alleges that district staff used district resources to send out communications supporting the proposal. The Commission determined that the communications sent were likely within the district's policy EHB-AP(1) which allows an authorized employee to use district technology resources for "reasonable, incidental personal purposes as long as the use does not violate any provision of district policies or procedures, hinder the use of the district's technology resources for the benefit of its students or waste district resources." While some of the communications, including Facebook communications, sent or posted by district staff occurred during working hours, there is no specific evidence that communications were made with district resources. According to the district, a number of the Facebook posts, while made during the day, were posted during the district's Spring Break.

Based on the information reviewed, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds to support a violation of chapter 115, RSMo, and is dismissing the complaint.

Sincerely,

James Klahr
Executive Director