

Joint Statement of Timothy Hess and Kelly DeWitt re Complaint Against Oshkosh Area School District Board Members

Date: Friday, January 31, 2025

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education has concluded an investigation into a citizen complaint alleging that Board Members Timothy Hess and Kelly DeWitt violated Board Policy as a result of their social media activities. The investigation was conducted by the Board of Education's legal counsel, who determined that evidence did not exist to support the claim that a violation of Board Policy has occurred.

We believe the complaint filed by the citizen in question was nothing more than a partisan attempt to cause division among the Board and censure views and opinions with which the complainant disagrees. We are pleased that the Board's investigation found the complaint to be without merit.

As members of a democratic society, we are each constitutionally entitled to our own viewpoints and opinions on issues that are important to us. Sometimes our views and opinions do not perfectly align with those of others within our community. Fostering a community discussion of district issues should not be viewed as to undermine the Board of Education, the District, or District staff. It is the healthy discourse on views and opinions across the spectrum of political ideology that makes us all stronger as a whole. We take the attempt to curtail our constitutionally protected freedom of speech very seriously, and will resist with all our strength should it ever resurface again.

We are committed to improving the educational welfare of all students within the Oshkosh Area School District. We will continue to advocate on behalf of those students, as well as the entire community, both as individuals and as Board Members.