

INITIAL STATEMENT

Oshkosh Area School District Statement to Media re Complaint Against Board Members

Date: Friday, January 31, 2025

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education has concluded an investigation into allegations regarding the social media conduct of Board Members Dr. Tim Hess and Kelly DeWitt. Following a formal complaint by a community member, an investigation was conducted by the Board of Education's legal counsel. The Board issues the following statement from Board President Beth Wyman:

"The Board recently investigated potential policy violations by two board members regarding social media accounts used to undermine the Board of Education, the District and district staff. It was determined that insufficient evidence exists to find a violation of Board Policy. Regardless of the determination, this is a serious concern and this behavior is not in line with our expectations of each other as elected officials. We believe that our community deserves both the facts and our collective commitment to ethical and professional leadership.

Speaking on behalf of Dr. Hess and Ms. DeWitt, their legal counsel acknowledged that the Facebook page with the alias "Mike Melter" belonged to Dr. Hess and the Facebook page with the alias "Missy Green" belonged to Ms. DeWitt. The alias pages have been deleted.

Our guiding principle as a district is unequivocally 'Students First.' The Board is deeply disappointed that board member behavior has diverted attention and efforts away from our core mission of education and the betterment of our district's future. Any deviation from this focus diminishes the educational opportunities available to our children.

As board members, we must uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethical behavior. It is our duty to ensure that trust is placed in our guidance and leadership. We remain steadfast in our dedication to creating an atmosphere where educational excellence thrives, and where every student is given the opportunity to succeed. In doing so, we pave the way for a brighter future for generations to come."