



Serving the communities and students of Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Woodway, and portions of Snohomish County

January 25, 2017

Dwayne Dodgen
1530 148th St. NE, Lot 5
Arlington, WA 98223

Dear Mr. Dodgen,

This letter is in response to your email dated January 15, 2017, expressing your frustration with the District's decision to decline your request to volunteer at your daughter's school, as well as other issues. The reasons for the District's decision regarding your volunteer application are explained below. Principal Stewart will follow up with you separately on the other issues that you raised.

On September 13, 2016, you submitted a disclosure statement for permission to volunteer at Brier Elementary School, where your daughter attends school. The volunteer program is a collaborative effort between the school and community members designed to promote positive school climate and to model exemplary adult behavior for our students. Volunteers have an opportunity to impact student learning in ways that extend beyond curricular activities. The District does a background check for all teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers. The District examines these background checks for every person who comes onto campus to interact with other students outside of generally open public events or opportunities. The administration may exclude visitors or volunteers for any reason deemed sufficient by the administrator. There is no general right to volunteer or to visit the school campus.

On your disclosures statement, you checked the box indicating [REDACTED] on the disclosure statement and wrote "Overturned & Dismissed" next to it. At the bottom of this disclosure statement, you also wrote "Conviction was overturned & dismissed by unanimous decisions of state appellate & supreme courts." We submitted a request for a background check to the Washington State Patrol and obtained a criminal history report. We looked into the conviction and the dismissal and found:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

You contend that "in the 18 years since my release ZERO other criminal issues," but contradict this by stating [REDACTED]

Your background check indicates that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As requested, a copy of the criminal history report is attached. We understand that from your perspective, these criminal convictions were either unwarranted or so old that they should have no relevance to your character and fitness to volunteer at the District. We remain concerned about this history, however, particularly in the context of the student school environment.

While your criminal background did not involve any of the offenses set forth in the volunteer disclosure statement, the conviction for [REDACTED] is a serious crime and we are unable to rely on your assertions that all of the evidence used in this case was fabricated or based on perjured testimony. The conviction was not overturned, but affirmed by the appellate court. In fact, you wrote that [REDACTED]

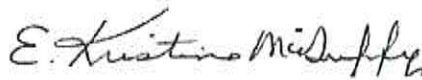
[REDACTED] From the District's perspective, these factors raise concerns regarding judgment, and exercise of discretion. This is, from the District's perspective, sufficient grounds upon which to deny your request to volunteer within the general student population. The District does not have an opinion on other past background checks you may have undergone or other programs or individuals that may have granted you permission to work with children.

Your concern for your daughter's education and the desire to participate in it is admirable. Again, you are welcome to attend any events that are open to the general public or to all other parents, including visits to the school for lunch. We apologize for the confusion regarding your visit on December 8, 2016. You should not have future issues with lunchroom visits, provided that you check in at the office and obtain the appropriate visitor's badge.

Sincerely,



School Board President



Dr. Kristine McDuffy
Superintendent

cc: Ann McMurray, Board Member
Carin Chase, Board Member
Gary Noble, Board Member
Diana White, Board Member
Emma Gillespie, Attorney, Preg O'Donnel & Gillett
Justin Irish, Assistant Superintendent Elementary
Johnna Stewart, Principal, Brier Elementary