

BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ONALASKA

A MOTION is hereby made to censure Jake Speed, a school board member for the School District of Onalaska.

WHEREAS the Board of Education is committed to act as trustees of public education and the principles of authority, ethics, and responsibility established by the Board in Board Policy.

WHEREAS, these principles manifest the Board of Education's expectation that Board members will listen to and respect the opinions of others; will be motivated only by an earnest desire to serve the school district and the children of our community and will not to use the office of school board for personal advantage or for the advantage of friends; will recognize that the authority of the Board rests with the Board as a whole at lawfully noticed meetings and not with individual Board members; will recognize the Board's commitment to supporting its administration's management of the District; will refrain from disparaging other Board members and from disparaging the District as a whole; will support Board decisions once made; and will promote effective Board service.

WHEREAS the Board of Education values diverse opinions, but expects Board members to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with their oath of office, their obligation to work to strengthen our schools and our District

1. Mr. Speed has refused to participate in activities that would enable him to effectively perform his duties as a school board member. In this regard, Speed has refused to participate in new Board member orientation, refused to participate in Board member mentoring, refused to attend critical Board development meetings, refused to accept Board committee assignments, and refused to work on assigned portions of Board policy review.
2. Mr. Speed has deliberately made false claims against the District and its officials implying that the District has not complied with its legal obligations, including publicly announcing to media representatives that he had filed a complaint with the District Attorney's Office, when no such complaint has ever been filed, and publicly accusing Board members of illegal activities.
3. Mr. Speed has deliberately filed a false criminal complaint against the school district with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has publicized his false complaint in an effort to defame the District and its officials, has later acknowledged that his claims are false, but has taken no steps to remediate his actions and has refused to apologize or otherwise accept responsibility for his conduct.

4. Mr. Speed has misused his office as a school Board member to improperly access District premises, and to threaten, harass, and/or intimidate District employees in their places of work.
5. Mr. Speed has been disrespectful and belligerent at school Board meetings by regularly and persistently talking over other Board members without allowing them to speak or finish their statements, raising his voice and becoming combative with other Board members, threatening board members and the board as whole, but then leaving a meeting that was convened to provide him with the chance to be heard, and accusing or berating Board members without addressing the issues under consideration and that have been placed on the open meeting agenda that is provided to the public.

THEREFORE, the Board of Education for the School District of Onalaska hereby censures Board member Jake Speed for conduct unbecoming of a school board member and contrary to his obligations to serve and strengthen our District for the benefit of the children of our community.