

Statement by Ron English
March 2, 2011, 230 PM

I understand Silas Potter has alleged that I reviewed and approved the contracts he let for his program as well as his other actions.

These allegations are not true. I had no involvement or knowledge of his contracts. I prepare the standard contract forms used by the District, but not the actual consulting contracts. I do not review invoices.

I had no knowledge that Mr. Potter was using District resources for his personal gain. If I had, I immediately would have raised the issue and in fact did so.

I was the first to discover that Mr. Potter was using District resources for personal gain, in a phone call with Tacoma Schools staff in June 2010. I immediately blew the whistle on Silas' taking \$35,000 for his own use, and this ultimately resulted in the State Auditor investigation. I met with SAO many times, to help them understand the situation. I also met with the Board's investigator, for the same purpose. The information I provided them was key to their developing an understanding of what happened.

My conduct demonstrates I wanted full disclosure of everything. I have encouraged other employees to do so as well. This can be verified with both investigators.

Both independent investigative reports demonstrate that I did what I could to bring Silas Potter's activities to light. On several occasions I objected to his activities and discussed them with Fred Stephens. I objected to a misleading report issued to the School Board and brought that to the attention of both Fred Stephens and my supervisor, Gary Ikeda. I was prevented from speaking to Board members by standard protocols issued by the Superintendent and reinforced by Mr. Ikeda.

I urge you to read the investigative reports. They accurately describe my role.

Even though I know the allegations against me are false, I recognize that the only way to adequately respond to these charges is to have an independent review done of my conduct. I have contacted the School Board and asked them to commission such a review, as soon as possible. I understand they have done so and I look forward to it being issued.