

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

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July 21, 2009

Dr. Kathleen Tyrell
Superintendent of Schools
180 Harborview Road
Hull, MA 02045

Re: CPF-09-37

Dear Dr. Tyrell:

This office has completed its review of a complaint we received concerning the debt exclusion question on the May 18, 2009, Town of Hull ballot. The complaint alleged that public school funds were used to promote the passage of the debt exclusion. Based upon our review, we have determined that public funds were not used to promote the ballot question.

It is our understanding, however, that the Student Advisory Committee ("the SAC"), which is a Hull High School student organization paid for wrist bands and t-shirts that advocated the passage of the debt exclusion question. The SAC contains privately raised student funds, which upon a request from students may be approved for student supported activities. In the Spring of 2009, acting upon such a request, the SAC agreed to pay for wrist bands and t-shirts advocating the passage of the debt exclusion question in Hull.

Section 22 of the campaign finance law states that "[t]he treasurer of a corporation, association, organization or other group of persons, other than a political committee organized under section 5, which has given, paid, expended or contributed, or promised to give, pay expend or contribute, any money or other thing of value in order to influence or affect the vote on any question submitted to the voters shall file reports setting forth the amount or value of every gift, payment, expenditure or contribution or promise to give, pay expend or contribute, together with the date, purpose and full name and address of the person to whom it was made." The SAC did not comply with Section 22 because it did not file a Report of Ballot Question Expenditures by Corporation or Organization (Form CPF M22) with the Town Clerk eight days preceding the election.

The SAC, however, has now filed Form CPF M22 to disclose its expenditures.¹ Because of this corrective action and our expectation that the guidance provided as the result of this review will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law, this office now considers this matter closed.

¹ In addition, the SOS Ballot Question Committee has filed its campaign finance report to disclose the receipt of an in-kind contribution from SAC.



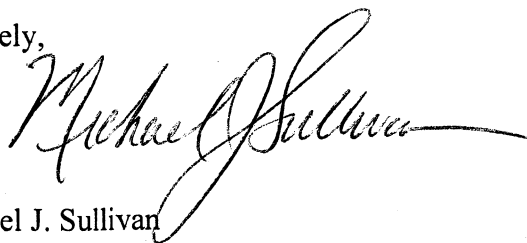
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In accordance with the Supervisor of Public Records Opinion, this letter is a public record. A copy is being provided to the person(s) who brought this matter to our attention. Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Sullivan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Sullivan
Director

MJS/sh

cc: Mikia Manley, Hull High School Advisory Committee
Janet Bennett, Hull Town Clerk