

Executive Ethics Board News

Jan Jutte, Chair
Kelli Hooke, Vice Chair
Megan Abel, Member
Cam Comfort, Member
David Hankins, Member

July 15, 2024

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, July 12, 2024, for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Jan Jutte, Vice Chair Kelli Hooke and Members Megan Abel, Cam Comfort and David Hankins. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Matt Kernutt, Senior Counsel, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer and Justin Cotte, Senior Investigator. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

In lieu of an enforcement hearing, the Board accepted stipulations from:

- **Robert Brusseau**, a Transportation Engineer 4 with the Washington State Department of Transportation, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Robert Brusseau browsed the internet, visiting sites including TikTok, Twitter, personal Google searches, news websites, and online shopping. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Chris Malone**, a Corrections Officer 2 with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated Chris Malone visited sports and news websites, Ebay and social media websites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Greg Buikema**, a former employee with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated Greg Buikema used their state email address to send and receive personal email. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$750.
- **Ross Humes**, a Management Analyst 4 with the Department of Licensing, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for non-work-related activities. Evidence indicated Ross Humes used their state email account to conduct business related to a homeowner's association that they are a board member of. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,000 suspended.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2023-049 (Carver) and EEB Case 2023-063 (Perkinson).

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for September 13, 2024.

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2023-020 (Loiacono), EEB Case 2023-052 (Campbell), EEB Case 2023-053 (Barton), EEB Case 2023-058 (McCormick), EEB Case 2023-060 (Wilson) and EEB Case 2023-065 (England).

Board Action:

- A. The Board denied a request for an Advisory Opinion due to lack of information.
- B. The Board denied two Requests for Reconsideration of Final Orders in the following:
 - EEB Case 2023-022 Fred Metzger
 - EEB Case 2023-043 Kimberly Black

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