

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**PRIMA FACIE
DETERMINATION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF KATHY LAFOND REGARDING STACEY RUELLE, MICHAEL NELSON, AND JONATHAN DREWES:

On April 15, 2019, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Kathy LaFond regarding Stacey Ruelle, Michael Nelson, and Jonathan Drewes.

The complaint states that Stacey Ruelle, Michael Nelson, and Jonathan Drewes were candidates in an election for seats on the Prior Lake-Savage Area School Board. The complaint alleges that the candidates' campaign material did not include a disclaimer documenting their endorsement by a local education association and that the lack of this disclaimer violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.

Determination:

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1, requires campaign material to include a disclaimer stating who is responsible for the preparation and distribution of the communication. The Board has jurisdiction over this provision only for candidates running for state-level offices. Minn. Stat. § 10A.022, subd. 3 (a).

In this matter, the candidates named in the complaint were running for a local-level office. The complaint makes no claim that these candidates were running for any state-level office. Because the candidates named in the complaint are not candidates for a state-level office, the Board has no jurisdiction over the disclaimer requirement for their campaign material. The complaint therefore does not state a prima facie violation of the disclaimer requirement.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. Based on the above analysis, the Chair concludes that the complaint does not state a prima facie violation of Chapter 10A or of those sections of Chapter 211B under the Board's jurisdiction. The complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

/s/ Margaret Leppik
Margaret Leppik, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: April 17, 2019