

Commissioner of Political Practices 1209 Eighth Avenue Post Office Box 202401 Helena, MT 59620-2401 Phone: 406-444-2942 Fax : 406-444-1643 www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
2019 SEP -3 AM 13  
HAND DELIVERED  
SIGNED/NOTARIZED  
AUG 29 2019

### Campaign Finance and Practices

### Complaint Form (08/17)

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

#### Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name Joseph P. Cook  
Complete Mailing Address 5489 Powmer Road  
Billings, Montana 59105  
Phone Numbers: Work 406-839-9091 Home 406-671-2116

#### Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent):

Complete Name educateshepherd.com  
Complete Mailing Address Unknown  
Phone Numbers: Work Unknown Home Unknown

**Please complete the second page of this form and describe in detail the facts of the alledged violation.**

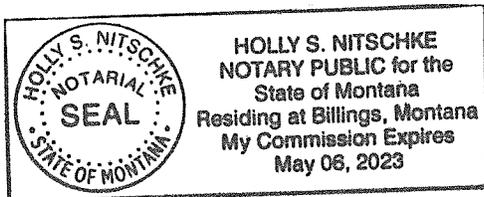
#### Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Yellowstone

I, Joe Cook, being duly sworn, state that the information in this Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(SEAL)

[Signature]  
Signature of Complainant



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of August, 2019.  
[Signature]  
Notary Public Holly S. Nitschke

My Commission Expires: May 6, 2023

**Statement of facts:**

Describe in detail the alleged violation(s) and cite the statute or statutes you believe have been violated. Please attach copies of documentary evidence to support the facts alleged in your statement.

If the space provided below is insufficient, you may attach additional pages as necessary.

On August 24, 2019, I received the attached mailer in my mailbox advocating for the defeat of our local school bond request. I received a similar mailer this past Spring, along with all of my neighbors, prior to the defeat of the last bond request. Both mailers have been anonymously sent without any attribution of who has paid for these mailers beyond: "Find out more by visiting [www.educateshepherd.com](http://www.educateshepherd.com)." A review of the website also lacks attribution, and I am concerned that a couple people are poisoning the well of voters without standing behind their opposition or properly registering with the State. "educateshepherd.com" is clearly a Political Action Committee, but the organizers have failed to register or follow any measure of fair play or accountability.

This type of behavior should not be condoned, and I request an investigation and prosecution of this matter to the fullest extent of this Office's powers.

**Complaints must be:**

- signed
- notarized
- delivered in person or by mail.

## Shepherd School District #37

### School Bond Requests \$11.9 Million

Approximate Estimated Tax Impact for a Residential Taxpayer in

**Shepherd Elementary and High School Districts**

For a \$200,000 Property = \$312.57 Annual Increase

Calculate the estimated increase, take your "Taxable Value" X 0.1191 = Amount of Increase

**Pioneer Elementary & Shepherd High School Districts**

For a \$200,000 Property = \$107.18 Annual Increase

Calculate the estimated increase, take your "Taxable Value" X 0.0397 = Amount of Increase

**Make it Safe, Fair & Get It Right!**

**It's OK to Vote  NO on a Bad Plan!**

100 Out 800 Kids (1:8) Who Go to Shepherd Schools are From Out of District - They Get a Free Ride by the Shepherd Taxpayers! (Shepherd Doesn't Charge Tuition to Out of District Students)

**Hard times could be on the horizon, this is not the right time to overextend your finances for 20 years.**

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

# It's OK to Vote NO, Get it Right!

## Wants vs. Needs

- ✓ Need – New Elementary Classroom Space
- ✓ Need - Science Rooms and Labs
- ✓ Need - Updates Secure Entry Points
- ✓ Need - Kitchen and Lunchroom without 24 foot ceilings
- ✓ Need – Fire Sprinkler Protection in Entire School
  - (The Safety of the Children is More Important than Athletics)
- ☒ Want - ~~Lunchroom / gym \$406,320.00~~
- ☒ Want - ~~New Weight and Cardio \$557,000.00~~
- ☒ Want - ~~Second Floor over \$2,000,000.00~~
  - (A Fancy Second Floor Won't Educate Our Children)

Find out more by visiting

[www.educateshepherd.com](http://www.educateshepherd.com)

Shepherd School District #37  
School Bond Request is

**\$11, 900,000**

- The current plan fails to address Critical Fire Protection, while adding Unnecessary Space.
- The Pioneer District is only being assessed 1/3 of the cost of the bond.
- Demand That They Make Education And Safety A Priority