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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

BEVERLY ANETTE RAINES, Principal,
Brighton School, RONALD HOWARD,
Assistant principal Aki Kurose, SANDRA
BOSLEY, Former Interim Principal at
Dunlap, CHALICE STALLWORTH,
Elementary School Teacher, RONALD
PLEASANT, Teacher at Cleveland, MARK
DELLA, Former Deputy Security Manager,
DEMETRICE THOMAS-DANZY,
Correctional Education Associate at
Interagency Academy, AUDREY WEAVER,
Security Specialist, Chief Sealh, JACQUE
JOHNSON, Security Specialist, Ballard, and
MARCUS PERKINS, Recently Fired
Custodian,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SEATTLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1, a
municipal corporation,

Defendant.

No. C09-203Z

ORDER

1 THIS MATTER comes before the Court on a discovery motion brought by
2 defendant Seattle School District No. 1, docket no. 51, in response to which plaintiffs'
3 counsel, Brenda Little, improperly sent an e-mail to a court address reserved for the
4 submission of proposed orders. See Exh. 1 to Jackson Decl. (docket no. 56). Having
5 previously expressed concerns about Ms. Little's ability to remain as counsel of record
6 for plaintiffs in this matter, see Minute Order (docket no. 50), and in light of
7 Ms. Little's e-mail message, the Court renoted defendant's motion and directed
8 Ms. Little to show cause why she should not be required to withdraw as counsel of
9 record, see Minute Order (docket no. 57).
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12 At the same time, the Court instructed Ms. Little to send to each plaintiff a copy
13 of the Court's most recent Minute Order and to file proof of service within five days,
14 which would have been January 13, 2010. Id. at ¶ 3. In addition, the Court set a
15 deadline for Ms. Little to respond to defendant's discovery motion, and advised
16 Ms. Little that failure to timely respond would be treated as an admission, pursuant to
17 Local Rule CR 7(b)(2), that the motion has merit and as evidence that Ms. Little
18 should not continue to act as counsel of record for plaintiffs. Id. at ¶ 2. Ms. Little has
19 never filed the required proof of service, and whether plaintiffs have been advised of
20 the Court's "show cause" Minute Order remains unclear. Moreover, instead of
21 providing a brief in response to defendant's motion, containing appropriately
22 supported factual assertions and legal arguments, Ms. Little has offered one paragraph
23 of a declaration in which she states that she does not understand defendant's motion
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1 and in which she offers, “[i]f it will make Mr. Jackson feel better,” to send a public
2 records disclosure request in lieu of the subpoena duces tecum that defendant seeks to
3 quash. Little Decl. at ¶ 6 (docket no. 58).
4

5 In this same declaration, Ms. Little also addresses whether she should remain
6 counsel of record. She indicates that the primary reason she should remain counsel is
7 that she “love[s] this case and [her] clients.” *Id.* at ¶ 1. She further describes the
8 personal tragedies she has recently suffered, *id.* at ¶ 2, she accuses the Superintendent
9 of the Seattle School District of “trying to ruin [her] career,” *id.* at ¶ 3, she describes
10 pro bono work she has performed for various plaintiffs, *id.* at ¶ 4, and she discloses
11 facts about an unrelated and unfiled case, *id.* at ¶ 5. She states that she mailed initial
12 disclosures to defendant’s counsel on February 26, 2010, *id.* at ¶ 6, which was long
13 past the deadline set by the Court, *see* Minute Order at ¶ 1 (docket no. 50) (granting
14 defendant’s motion to compel, docket no. 48, and directing that initial disclosures be
15 provided by December 23, 2009), and she advises the Court that she now works for the
16 Ellensburg School District, *id.* at ¶ 7.
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19 Ms. Little’s declaration does nothing to persuade the Court that she is equipped
20 to handle this case. To the contrary, the declaration concedes that Ms. Little failed to
21 comply with the Court’s previous order, and it indicates that Ms. Little might have a
22 conflict of interest, either due to her own personal claims or her new employment.
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24 The Court therefore ORDERS as follows:
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1 (1) Ms. Little is hereby REMOVED as counsel of record for plaintiffs in this
2 matter, effective immediately. Ms. Little is DIRECTED to send a copy of this Order
3 to each plaintiff and to file proof of such service within five (5) days of the date of this
4 Order. Plaintiffs are advised that they must either arrange for another attorney to
5 appear in this action on their behalf or they must each file a motion to proceed pro se.
6 See Local Rule GR 2(g)(1). Plaintiffs are further advised that this matter will be
7 dismissed without prejudice unless, within forty-five (45) days of the date of this
8 Order, either (i) a notice of appearance has been filed by an attorney who is authorized
9 to practice in this Court, or (ii) appropriate motions to proceed pro se have been filed.
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11 (2) Defendant's discovery motion, docket no. 51, is GRANTED IN PART
12 and DENIED IN PART. The subpoena duces tecum dated December 28, 2009,
13 directed to the custodian of records pertaining to the Regional Small Business
14 Development Program, see Exh. 4 to Jackson Decl. (docket no. 53); see also Potter
15 Decl. at ¶ 1 (docket no. 52), is QUASHED. Brenda Little is DIRECTED to
16 immediately deliver to Gregory E. Jackson of Freimund Jackson Tardif & Benedict
17 Garratt, PLLC a check made payable to Seattle School District No. 1 for the \$628.00
18 in sanctions previously imposed. See Order dated October 23, 2009 (docket no. 47).¹
19 If Ms. Little fails to make payment within five (5) days of the date of this Order, the
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25 ¹ In its Order dated October 23, 2009, the Court also ordered Ms. Little to attend a two (2) or more
26 credit Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") course regarding time management strategies and to
certify her attendance at such CLE by January 22, 2010. Order (docket no. 47). Ms. Little has not
submitted the required certification.

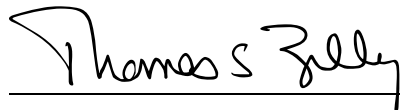
1 Court will consider holding her in contempt. In all other respects, defendant's
2 discovery motion is DENIED.

3 (3) The trial date and all remaining dates and deadlines are STRICKEN.
4
5 The Court will enter a revised scheduling order, if appropriate, after the status of
6 plaintiffs' legal representation has been resolved.

7 (4) The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Order to Brenda Little and all
8 counsel of record.

9 IT IS SO ORDERED.

10 DATED this 10th day of March, 2010.

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14 Thomas S. Zilly
15 United States District Judge
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