

To: Wisconsin Elections Commission

From: Anthony Decker, WCSD Board Clerk

Date: 2 April 2025

Subject: Response to Wrightstown Community Board President Angela Hansen-Winker's Verified Complaint to Appeal the Certification of the Recall Petition under Wis. Stat. 5.06(1).

This document addresses *Angela Hansen-Winker's Verified Complaint to Appeal the Certification of the Recall Petition*.

In looking at the complaint, there are five main areas of concern and are listed below. Each area below contains both concerns and my responses to those concerns. Some of the concerns are listed in multiple areas, so there will be some repetition in my responses.

I. *Winker is entitled to an evidentiary hearing under Wis. Stat. 5.06(1) and Wis. Stat. 227.42(1) because Decker ignored:*

1. Vagueness of reason – Arguments cited in the challenge did not sufficiently show the stated reasons for the recall were vague.
2. Evidence of fraud - Arguments presented in the challenge did not show evidence of fraud.
3. Undue influence - Did not present evidence that specific signatures were induced or coerced.
4. Bribery – Arguments cited in the challenge did not sufficiently show Bribery definitively occurred. To determine the legality of this is beyond the scope of a Board Clerk.
5. Threats - Did not present evidence that specific signatures were gained or removal requests were not made as a result of a threat. To determine the legality of this claim is beyond the scope of a Board Clerk.
6. Misuse of school district property - In the instance of the recall committee violating school policy by being on campus gathering signatures without authorization, which I addressed, the signatures gained that day were voluntarily withdrawn.
7. Manipulation of petition signer's data by the circulators and others - Signatures are not rejected where the municipality can still be determined based on the information provided.
8. Violation of First Amendment rights – This area of the challenge is outside of my authority.
9. “WEC staff advised Decker to certify the Recall Petition” - This is false. WEC staff did not advise me to certify the Recall Petition.

II. The Recall Petition is insufficient because it fails to state a legitimate claim and is impermissibly vague.

1. Vagueness of reason - Arguments cited in the challenge did not sufficiently show the stated reasons for the recall were vague.
2. Recall lacks legitimate claim - Wisconsin does not require specific grounds for a recall to occur. Elected officials may be subject to a recall for any reason; however, all petition sheets, form EL-170 (Rev.2019-09), contained the statement “Disregard for Board Procedures. Lack of Transparency and Communication. Conflict of Interest and Ethical Violations. Violation of District Policies and Code of Conduct.” (see exhibit A). The Official Statement of intent to Circulate Recall Petition lists the recall’s specific reasons (see exhibit B).

III. Recall Petition signatures that were accepted contained numerous false and fraudulent addresses by unknown third-party edits of elector information without consent.

1. Signatures must be struck due to alterations or struck due to a lack of initialing corrected areas - There is nothing to suggest signatures needed to be struck from the petition. Per WEC’s Riley Willman “An elector does not need to initial next to a correction on their signature. Additionally, voters can have someone complete the rest of the petition for them/receive assistance in completing the form. They do not need to indicate if they received assistance in completing their line on the petition.” (see exhibit C)
2. Fraudulent abuse of the recall process - Arguments presented in the challenge did not show evidence of fraud.
3. Unable to determine addresses - “I could not determine the correct address of these signers on the Recall Petition based on such ambiguities and varying handwriting”
 - a. Per WEC’s direction, signatures are not rejected where the municipality can still be determined based on the information provided. The challenge cites 258 signatures where address corrections were made. Although these 258 signatures contain corrections to the municipality, they are located in the annexation of the Village of Greenleaf from the Town of Wrightstown led to changes. The associated confusion arose because tax records differed from public search tools.

IV. Recall petition signatures were circulated and induced in violation of multiple policies, rules, laws, and, on that basis, should be stricken.

1. Fraudulent use of District logos and branding – Did not present evidence that specific signatures were induced via the r4wcsd.com website and the Residents For Wrightstown Community School District Facebook group.

2. Violating school policy – In the instance of the recall committee violating school policy by being on campus gathering signatures without authorization, the signatures gained that day were voluntarily withdrawn. I also addressed the circulators being on school grounds gathering signatures as soon as I learned of it on January 9, 2025, and is why that behavior stopped. Lastly, when I was made aware of the r4wcsd.com website and the Residents For Wrightstown Community School District Facebook group school district logo and branding policy violations they were addressed and is why the r4wcsd website and the r4wcsd Facebook group removed these items and replaced them with generic images.
3. Multiple circulators induced signatures at local bars – **The Recall Local Elected Officials Manual found at <https://elections.wi.gov/resources/manuals/recall-manuals> does not specify acceptable or unacceptable places to obtain signatures.**

V. Recall Petition Signatures were fraudulently induced by knowing and intentional false statements and representations by current School Board Members

1. False statements – All petition signature sheets contain identical and clearly stated reasons for the Recall Petition.
2. Recall signatures were induced or coerced - Did not present evidence that specific signatures were induced or coerced. Additionally, electors signed the petition voluntarily.
3. People were misled about the reasons – People who signed the recall were provided a process to follow to remove their name from the Recall Petition, if they felt they were misled (see exhibit D). This resulted in 13 signatures being removed. Additionally, there is a website named “Wrightstown Insight” found at “<https://wrightstowninsight.com>” where people could fill out a form to have their name removed from the Recall Petition. The form was removed after the recall petition was submitted.

Conclusion

As I performed my recall duties, I relied on our District's legal team for guidance and consulted with WEC where appropriate. Their advice enabled me to review the Recall Petition in a consistent, objective and credible manner, which resulted in my finding the Recall Petition to be sufficient.

Exhibits

Exhibit A - Examples of Recall Petition pages – the first and last page of the Recall Petition

RECALL PETITION

TO: Tony Decker Wrightstown Community School District Board Clerk We, the undersigned qualified electors of the Wrightstown Community School District
(official with whom nomination papers or declaration of candidacy for the office is filed) (jurisdiction or district of officeholder)

petition for the recall of Angela Hansen-Winker WCSD School Board President from office pursuant to Article XIII, Section 12 of the Wisconsin Constitution and §.9.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
(name of officeholder to be recalled and office)

STATEMENT OF REASON FOR RECALL

(The reason for recall must be stated on petitions for city, village, town, and school district officials. The reason must be related to the official responsibilities of the officeholder. No statement of reason is required to initiate the recall of state, congressional, legislative, judicial, or county officials.)

Disregard for Board Procedures, Lack of Transparency and Communication, Conflict of Interest and Ethical Violations, Violation of District Policies and Code of Conduct.

THE MUNICIPALITY USED FOR MAILING PURPOSES, WHEN DIFFERENT THAN MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE, IS NOT SUFFICIENT. THE NAME OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE MUST ALWAYS BE LISTED.

SIGNATURES OF ELECTORS	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTORS	STREET & NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE <small>Rural address must also include box or fire no.</small>	MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE <small>Indicate Town, City, or Village</small>	DATE OF SIGNING
1. <i>Johnalis Reyes</i>	Johnalis Reyes	6734 Dexter Street	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Greenleaf	1/18/25
2. <i>Richard Gilson</i>	Richard Gilson	6835 Bunker Hill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City GREENLEAF	1/22/25
3. <i>Galenda Gilson</i>	Galenda Gilson	6833 Bunker Hill Rd,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Greenleaf	1/22/25
4. <i>Mack Wiese</i>	Mack Wiese	1226 Mill Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Wrightstown Holland	1/25/2025
5. <i>Peggy Ann Currey</i>	Peggy Ann Currey	7496 Blake Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Holland	01/23/25
6. <i>Till Gayso</i>	Till Gayso	325 High St	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Wrightstown	1/25/2025
7. <i>Marty Schramper</i>	MARTY SCHRAMPER	906 PARK ST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City WRIGHTSTOWN	1/29/2025
8. <i>Tony Ellis</i>	Tony Ellis	1745 Hill Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Holland	1/31/25
9. <i>Julia Ellis</i>	Julia Ellis	1745 Hill Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Holland	2/1/25
10. <i>Terri Wiegert</i>	Terri Wiegert	6846 Elmro Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Wrightstown	2/1/25

1. Christopher Charles Lemke, certify: I reside at 6838 County Creek Court Greenleaf WI 53126 (Signature of circulator) (circulator's residence - include address, street, and municipality) Village of Greenleaf

I further certify I am either a qualified elector of Wisconsin, or a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older who, if I were a resident of this state, would not be disqualified from voting under Wis. Stat. § 6.03. I personally circulated this recall petition and personally obtained each of the signatures on this paper. I know that the signers are electors of the jurisdiction or district represented by the officeholder named in this petition. I know that each person signed the paper with full knowledge of its content on the date indicated opposite his or her name. I know their respective residences given. I support this recall petition. I am aware that falsifying this certification is punishable under § 12.13(3)(a), Wis. Stats.

2/1/2025 (Date) Christopher Lemke (Signature of circulator)

Page No. 1

EL-179 (Rev. 2019-09) The information on this form is required by Wis. Stats. §§. 8.40 and 9.10. This form is prescribed by the Wisconsin Elections Commission | P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984 | 608-266-8005 | web: <http://elections.wi.gov> | email: elections@ef.gov

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SIGNATURES OF ELECTORS	PRINTED NAME OF ELECTORS	STREET & NUMBER OR RURAL ROUTE <small>Rural address must also include box or fire no.</small>	MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE <small>Indicate Town, City, or Village</small>	DATE OF SIGNING
1. <i>Jill M. Schmurser</i>	Jill M. Schmurser	5792 Jennifer Lane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Wrightstown	2/11/25
2. <i>Robert Schmurser</i>	Robert Schmurser	5792 Jennifer Lane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City Wrightstown	2/11/25
3.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
4.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
5.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
6.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
7.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
8.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
9.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /
10.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	/ /

1. Jennifer Boylan, certify: I reside at 920 Fair Road (Signature of circulator) (circulator's residence - include address, street, and municipality) Town of Wrightstown

I further certify I am either a qualified elector of Wisconsin, or a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older who, if I were a resident of this state, would not be disqualified from voting under Wis. Stat. § 6.03. I personally circulated this recall petition and personally obtained each of the signatures on this paper. I know that the signers are electors of the jurisdiction or district represented by the officeholder named in this petition. I know that each person signed the paper with full knowledge of its content on the date indicated opposite his or her name. I know their respective residences given. I support this recall petition. I am aware that falsifying this certification is punishable under § 12.13(3)(a), Wis. Stats.

02/11/2025 (Date) Jennifer Boylan (Signature of circulator)

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EL-179 (Rev. 2019-09) The information on this form is required by Wis. Stats. §§. 8.40 and 9.10. This form is prescribed by the Wisconsin Elections Commission | P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984 | 608-266-8005 | web: <http://elections.wi.gov> | email: elections@ef.gov

Exhibit B

STATE OF WISCONSIN	Name of County <u>Brown County</u>	Name of Municipality <u>Village of Wrightstown</u>
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STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE RECALL PETITION

THE UNDERSIGNED RECALL PETITIONER, Ryan Warner *(Print Name)*

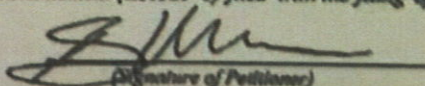
STATES HIS/HER INTENT TO CIRCULATE, PURSUANT TO Wis. Stat. § 5.9.10
OF THE WISCONSIN STATUTES, A PETITION TO RECALL,

Angela Hansen-Winker School Board President of Wrightstown Community School District
(Indicate the name of, and office held by, the official being recalled)

FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON OR REASONS RELATED TO THE OFFICIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICIAL SOUGHT TO BE RECALLED:

Disregard for Board Procedures and Policies. Failure to adhere to Robert's Rules of Order, specifically by limiting discussion after motions. Unauthorized access to confidential information, such as taking pictures of sign-in sheets containing personal information. Ignoring requests to correct inaccurate information in public documents. Lack of Transparency and Communication. Refusal to respond to emails from fellow board members and directing all communication to legal counsel. Failure to follow the chain of command within the district. Withholding critical information from the board, such as the names of individuals involved in complaints or suggestions. Moving closed session locations without prior notice or agenda approval. Conflict of Interest and Ethical Violations. Potential conflict of interest due to involvement with the New Patriots and speaking on behalf of the board. Inappropriate behavior during workshops and board meetings, including the treatment of fellow board members. Misuse of district funds for legal fees without proper authorization or explanation. Initiating investigations without board approval or informing all board members. Obstructing the district administrator's ability to perform their duties. Using legal counsel for personal agendas rather than utilizing free resources provided by WASB. Failure to address serious concerns, such as a community member recording private conversations and a board member's intent to terminate the district administrator. Selective dissemination of information to certain board members. Limiting the ability of the district administrator and other board members to add agenda items. Violation of District Policies and Code of Conduct. Repeated violations of district policies and the board's code of conduct. Issuing a public statement without informing or consulting with fellow board members, which contained degrading language and inaccurate information. Refusing to communicate with the district administrator regarding important agenda items. These actions have eroded public trust in the school board and have negatively impacted the district's operations. We believe that a recall election is necessary to restore integrity and accountability to the board.

(This statement should be appended to the Campaign Registration Statement (ETHCF-1) filed with the filing officer.)

Dated this 10th day of December, 2024 
(Signature of Petitioner)

(Notary Not Required)

EL-1706 | Rev. 2017-07 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984 | 608-361-3038 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@ed.gov

Exhibit C

From: Willman, Riley P - ELECTIONS <Riley.Willman@wisconsin.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 18, 2025 at 4:08 PM
Subject: RE: Petition signature questions
To: ANTHONY DECKER <decker@wrightstown.k12.wi.us>

Hi Tony,

An elector does not need to initial next to a correction on their signature. Additionally, voters can have someone complete the rest of the petition for them/receive assistance in completing the form. They do not need to indicate if they received assistance in completing their line on the petition. As for your final question, the box does not need to be checked, however the municipality and address must be within your school district.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I'd be happy to help.

Thanks,

Riley Willman

Elections Supervisor
Wisconsin Elections Commission
Riley.Willman@wisconsin.gov

From: ANTHONY DECKER <decker@wrightstown.k12.wi.us>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Willman, Riley P - ELECTIONS <Riley.Willman@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Petition signature questions

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Riley,

Hope you are well. I have a couple of quick questions regarding signatures/ names / info on petitions.

- 1) If an elector makes a change, does the elector need to initial it? I ask because there are corrections without initials.
- 2) I have also noticed there are a number of instances where there is the same writing on multiple lines but the signature styles are different. So my question is must each elector completely fill out each line, unless disabled or need assistance, or can someone else complete everything other than the signature?
- 3) If someone doesn't check the Village/Town/City box is that an issue?

Thank you so much in advance for your help!

Respectfully,

Tony Decker
WCSD Board Clerk

Exhibit D



Wrightstown community

Tony Decker · ★ Rising contributor · January 30 · 🗨️



Recall Petition Signature Removal Process / FAQ

If you have signed a petition to recall Angela Hansen-Winker and wish to remove your name from that petition, there are a few items to keep in mind.

To remove your name from a signed recall petition, please email Rayn Warner at raynw@yahoo.com and also email me at decker@wrightstown.k12.wi.us

- Include your name, address, and reason for removal. Typical removal reasons are something along the line that you felt the circulator of the petition misled you in some way shape or form. You don't have to go into detail. A simple "I felt I was misled about the recall reasons" statement will suffice. By the way, just changing your mind or claiming ignorance of the recall reason is not a valid reason to have your name removed.

Each person who signed a petition must email both Rayn and I. You may not list multiple names on a single email.

- Example - if a married couple wants to have their names removed, each person must email Rayn and I, and each email must contain name, address, and reason for removal. There cannot be multiple names on a single removal request. If there are multiple names listed, the person sending the email will be removed, but the other(s) listed must submit their own request.

You must request to have your name removed prior to the recall package being submitted. Any removal requests after recall package submission will not be processed.

- Rayn has up until 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2025, to submit the recall package but can submit it any time before that.

After emailing me, I will confirm receipt of your removal request.

Once the recall package is submitted, I will verify all valid signature removal requests have been crossed out on the petition paperwork and will not be counted.

I hope the above is helpful.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at decker@wrightstown.k12.wi.us and I will do my very best to answer them.

Respectfully,

Tony Decker

WCSD Board Clerk

Anthony Decker

Anthony Decker, WCSD School District Clerk

2 APRIL 2025

Date

Subscribed and sworn before me this 2 day of
April, 2025



Patricia A. Leitemann

Name: Patricia A. Leitemann

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My Commission expires: 11/20/26