



Seattle Hall Pass S2 E7 Show Notes

Option C - Recall, with Ben Gitenstein

In this first episode of our *Option C* series, we explore alternatives to the school closure plans recently announced by Seattle Public Schools, known as Options A and B. These plans initially proposed closing up to 21 schools, later reduced to five after public pushback. Our guest, Ben Gitenstein, an SPS parent and former school board candidate, introduces the idea of a school board recall as his "Option C" in response to what he sees as undemocratic and ideological actions by the board. Ben explains why a recall may be necessary to hold the board accountable and prevent further harm to the district, kicking off a series of conversations on alternative paths for Seattle Public Schools.

Contact us: Send corrections, suggestions, and comments to hello@seattlehallpass.org.

Disclaimer: Seattle Hall Pass features a variety of voices. Each person's opinions are their own.

Relevant Laws and Policies

- RCW 29A.56.110 - defines the recall standard and process
 - (1) *"Misfeasance" or "malfeasance" in office means any wrongful conduct that affects, interrupts, or interferes with the performance of official duty;*
 - (a) *Additionally, "misfeasance" in office means the performance of a duty in an improper manner; and*
 - (b) *Additionally, "malfeasance" in office means the commission of an unlawful act;*
 - (2) *"Violation of the oath of office" means the neglect or knowing failure by an elective public officer to perform faithfully a duty imposed by law.*
- RCW 42.30.010 - The Open Meetings Act

Legislative declaration.

The legislature finds and declares that all public commissions, boards, councils, committees, subcommittees, departments, divisions, offices, and all other public agencies of this state and subdivisions thereof exist

to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of this chapter that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed and informing the people's public servants of their views so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created. For these reasons, even when not required by law, public agencies are encouraged to incorporate and accept public comment during their decision-making process.

- RCW [42.30.110](#) - note the section on "Executive Sessions"
- RCW [28A.150.230](#) - the definition of the role of School Board Director. Ben says to note the emphasis on accountability.
 - (1) It is the intent and purpose of this section to guarantee that each common school district board of directors, whether or not acting through its respective administrative staff, be held accountable for the proper operation of their district to the local community and its electorate. In accordance with the provisions of this title, as now or hereafter amended, each common school district board of directors shall be vested with the final responsibility for the setting of policies ensuring quality in the content and extent of its educational program and that such program provide students with the opportunity to achieve those skills which are generally recognized as requisite to learning.*
- [Seattle School Board Policy 1400](#) - defines how Board meetings are to be run.