



January 5, 2021

Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator II
Whatcom County
Boards and Commissions
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Jill,

As you know, the Regional Economic Partnership (REP) at the Port of Bellingham is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the Whatcom County Business and Commerce Advisory Committee.

We are writing to ask for assistance in identifying if our current education sector representative, Jeff Callandar, will be continuing in his role on this committee in 2021. We are also very concerned for his health and well-being as we have had no contact with Mr. Callander since August 2019 despite over 20 emails to him from either myself or REP staff (minimum of two emails per month to the group for agendas and minutes purposes) and at least half a dozen direct voice messages from myself inquiring about his health and participation.

During 2020, the Business and Commerce Committee met a total of seven times (January, February, July-December 2020). Jeff was not in attendance for either the first two in-person meetings or the five Zoom meetings. He also did not submit contact information designating a proxy to attend meetings in his place, which the Business and Commerce Committee approved as a committee bylaw in August 2020. He also has not responded to the Outlook calendar invite for the scheduled 2021 meetings.

In 2019, the Business and Commerce Committee met a total of eleven times (all months but December) and Jeff was in attendance twice, in May 2019 and August 2019.

We would very much like for Jeff to continue in this role if he would like and would like to reiterate our deep concern for his well-being. As you know, the education sector comprises a critical component of Whatcom County's economy and as such we need an active committee member (and proxy) in this role.

If Jeff is no longer interested in participating, we would like to open the education position for applications. Please advise next steps.

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

Don Goldberg, Director
Regional Economic Partnership
Port of Bellingham