



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAY COUNTY

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BOARD MEMBERS:

Janice Kerekes
District 1
Carol Studdard
District 2
Tina Bullock
District 3
Johnna McKinnon
District 4
Lisa Graham
District 5

Charlie Van Zant, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2014

Mrs. Carol Studdard
965 Sandpiper Lane
Orange Park, FL 32073

Dear Chairman Studdard,

The purpose of this letter is an effort to clarify our roles in setting school board meeting agendas. Our current board policy states the superintendent shall establish the agenda for the school board meetings in consultation with the board chairman. Over the past year and a half, I believe you and I have done a good job implementing this policy. However, most recently, I am disturbed by the events of last month's meeting including our consultation meeting when you directed me to deny a scheduled citizen's request to speak. When I did not remove that item from the agenda, you unilaterally denied the citizen's request to speak without a vote or consensus from the board.

First, as your executive officer, it is my job to develop the agenda as well as advise and counsel the school board. Although the policy states that I will consult with the board chair, it does not give the board chair approval/veto power over items I recommend to be placed on the agenda. The board, at their meeting, can then vote items up or down. This process ensures a separation of power.

Second, it is my responsibility to ensure that the school board is meeting the requirements of Policy 1.02 as well as all other policies in the day to day operations of the school district. The scheduled citizen request that you denied, in my opinion, met the requirements of our policy. In fact, this citizen even asked you if further details were needed. You chose not to respond to him and you also made disparaging remarks to my secretary and me regarding this individual to the effect of, "I'm over him, I'm tired of him, and I'm not going to deal with him anymore." In addition, your actions were inconsistent with your past practice of what was allowed for a scheduled citizen's request. I have included, for your review, a list of previous speakers and their level of detail. As your superintendent, Florida Statute compels me to advise you that I believe your action in the denial of the citizen's request in April constitutes a violation of the policy and ultimately places this school district at risk for possible litigation. I have attached for your review copies of PowerPoint slides from a training in which we both participated. These slides speak to my concerns.

If it is your desire to develop a revision to Policy 1.02 to restrict a citizen's speech based on time rather than content (other than profane or disruptive) I stand ready to assist and work with you. I suggest we schedule a workshop after this school year ends to work together on these issues.

I hope you find this information helpful. I am available to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,


Charlie Van Zant
Superintendent

cc: All Board Members

Scheduled Citizen Requests

Meeting	Citizen	Topic/Details
April 2013	Stanley Pfenning (1)	Amendments to CCSB Policy 6GX-10-1.02, The District School Board <i>Not present due to illness.</i>
	Sylvia Croft	Comments Concerning Conversation at the Last Board Meeting
May 2013	Keith Nichols (1)	Integrity Matters
	Stanley Pfenning (2)	Proposed Amendments to CCSB Policy 6GX-10-1.02, The District School
June 2013	Keith Nichols (2)	Parity Doesn't Live Here Anymore
	Marjorie Caouette	Two Important Goals of the Clay County School Board
July 2013	Monique Thomas	Common Core
	Smitty Huffman (1)	School Discipline and Procedures
	Renna Lee Paiva	The Budget As Seen By the Teachers
Aug 2013	Margaret Lingg	Transporting Students from Keystone to Ridgeview IB Program
	Keith Nichols (3)	Are We Picking the Right Number?
Sept 2013	Stacy Furlong	Clay Virtual student regarding Honors Classes <i>Did not show</i>
Oct 2013	Keith Nichols (4)	Correct Measures
	Harry Parrott (1)	Dare to Think Conference (limited details provided)
	Laura Gorgus	Dare to Think Conference
Nov 2013	Keith Nichols (5)	Revisiting Integrity
	Jim Horne	Unity and Business Development in Clay County (Organization)
	Jerry Agresti	Unity and Economic Development in Clay County (Organization)
Dec 2013	NONE	
Jan 2014	Smitty Huffman (2)	School Board Policies
	Harry Parrott (2)	Indoctrination DVD
Feb 2014	Brenda Kicsak	Citizen Participation (limited details provided)
	MaryAnn Steinberg	School Safety (lengthy Details provided)
	Travis Christensen	Public's Right to Address Public Officials at Public Meetings about Public Business
March 2014	Marie Collier	Safety in Schools <i>Not able to attend</i>
April 2014	Stanley Pfenning (3) DENIED	CCSB Policies, Past, Present and Future, and the relationship of the Board and other stakeholders

