

May 19, 2008

To: Gainesville City School Board

From: Dr. Steven E. Ballowe, Superintendent  
Gainesville City Schools

Re: Executive Sessions: possible civil rights violations

Recently two executive sessions, February 19 and April 21, have been documented with possible violations of the Open Meetings Act.

In addition, since January 2008 the superintendent has been placed in the position of correcting individual board members when actions have been inappropriate, unethical or illegal. This has created an adverse environment, as the board has not taken any actions to correct or modify inappropriate behaviors of individual board members.

Since January 2008 the superintendent has advised the board to seek legal counsel from Mr. Phil Hartley, school board attorney, and representatives from the Georgia School Boards Association to address corrective actions for documented behaviors. To date the board has not set a retreat date with either party.

Until the board addresses the documented actions that may prove unethical and/or illegal, I request advance notice of any executive session that deals with the evaluation or performance of the superintendent and to have legal representation. In addition, as the board may have violated the civil rights of the superintendent, the superintendent requests any costs associated with legal representation to be paid by the board.

Please respond in writing, by Monday, June 16 of the request for paid legal representation and the plan to address both areas of concern identified.

Sincerely,



Dr. Steven E. Ballowe, Superintendent  
Gainesville City Schools