



## School board conflict grows in intensity

**BROKEN ARROW - Three members boycott regular meeting; two hold impromptu session to air complaints**

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Two "school board meetings" were held in Broken Arrow Monday evening - one official, the other impromptu.

The official session was called to order at Central on Main by Board of Education President Terry Stover at 6 p.m. and adjourned two minutes later for lack of a quorum.

Stover said he had been informed by Attorney Doug Mann that board Vice President Sharon Whelpley, Deputy Clerk Maryanne Flippo and Member Shari Wilkins would not attend the meeting to protest the failure of certain items to be placed on the meeting's agenda.

Citing school board policy 15.1, which he said was followed by Flippo during her term as school board president, Stover told a gathered audience that items to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the board president in writing within five working days of the meeting.

One request made by Flippo met that criteria and was included, he said, the others did not and were not included.

"I am not attempting to keep the board from addressing any issues but am merely trying to make sure the board follows its policy and established procedures," Stover said.

That is not the story Flippo and Wilkins were telling a gathering comprised primarily of teachers at Veterans Park.

"When the majority of the board is not being allowed to represent the constituents who elected us, there is no point in our attending a board meeting," Flippo said. "Mr. Stover and the superintendent are preventing the elected members of the Broken Arrow school board from conducting important business by refusing to place items for discussion on the agenda. By his actions, Mr. Stover is hijacking the entire board of education and placing it under his sole control. Together, Dr. Sisney and Mr Stover are keeping me and other board members from representing the citizens who elected us.

When asked how many items she was referring to, Flippo couldn't recall an exact number but said she thought it was "six or eight."

Wilkins said the two items she sought to add - a review of the district's 2008-09 budget with an explanation of why the reserve fund was reduced, and a motion to authorize legal counsel (Mann) to review board policies and recommend revisions - remain at the top of her priority list.

When asked how long this boycott might last, Flippo said "as soon as Dr. Sisney and Mr. Stover agree to let all board members place items on the agenda, the three of us will resume attendance at board meetings."

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