



10/03/2008

BOE president objects to special section

By: Terry Stover, President Board of Education

On Sept. 30, I received e-mails requesting a special school board meeting be held on Monday, Oct. 6. The e-mail included requested agenda items which cause me as a board member great concern and to which I have strong objections.

The first requested agenda item is to vote to not receive any comments from the public as to individual agenda items on the agenda. This item would prohibit any public comment at this special board meeting. I believe that is a form of censorship and violates democratic principles.

The second requested agenda item is to immediately terminate the legal services contract with the Center for Education Law, Inc. Broken Arrow Public Schools has been pleased with the legal services provided and the cost of those services.

On Aug. 12, a majority of the board voted to hire another law firm, Rosenstein, Fist, and Ringold, so specific board members would have access to an attorney.

At that meeting, they said there was no need to terminate the contract with the Center for Education Law, Inc. Now those same board members want to terminate the contract in order to prevent me and the administration from seeking its services.

The rest of the proposed agenda concerns the employment of Dr. Jim Sisney and possible action to suspend and to dismiss him from employment. Dr. Sisney has served the Broken Arrow Public Schools very well.

To undertake his suspension and dismissal will cause further splintering of our community and our board. Such an action will expend valuable funds in the form of legal fees which would be better spent on our students and has the substantial possibility of resulting in further legal actions against the district and the individual board members.