



# BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jim Sisney, Superintendent of Schools

August 14, 2008

Stephen Q. Peters  
1800 S. Baltimore  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

Dear Mr. Peters,

The purpose of this letter is to request you to write a legal opinion as to whether our Board of Education in Broken Arrow Public Schools can break their own policies and the decision stand. The agenda was framed by Board member Sharon Whelpley in email correspondence with the balance of the Board. On August 12, 2008, our Board held a special meeting to hire the law firm of Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold and Doug Mann. The aforementioned firm was hired at the meeting.

Board Policy 15.1 reads in part: **The Superintendent of Schools shall confer with the President of the Board to consider inclusion of an item to be placed on a Board agenda, and the appropriate meeting for such discussion. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools and the President of the Board.** At no time was I consulted about this Board meeting or the agenda item. At the Board Meeting, legal counsel for the district, Laura Holmes, was asked by the Board if the meeting was legal. She gave an "off the cuff" opinion and said the meeting was legal because of proper postings etc., but the breaking of policy was a matter of interpretation.

This issue is urgent and significant for several reasons. I believe that the breaking of the policy and the hiring of RFR and Doug Mann will cripple the day to day operations of Broken Arrow Public Schools. First, the policy is clear and the Board broke it. Many administrators and teachers were in attendance at the meeting. I think it is reasonable to assume that if our governing body breaks a policy then all other policies will become situationally interpretable by school district employees. Second, it cripples my ability to function as a superintendent because the agenda for every single board meeting since I have been in Broken Arrow Public Schools has been developed by the district staff and the superintendent and then a final agenda was set by the superintendent and Board president. Under the current conditions, every district decision and every official agenda item is compromised.

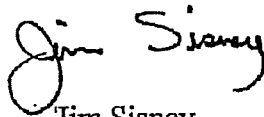
PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

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I have specific information that Doug Mann was hired to terminate Jim Sisney as superintendent. I believe that RFR and Doug Mann have a conflict because of facts unrelated to agenda topic. The subject of how I dealt with a disgruntled vendor, Air Assurance, has led to these actions. An investigation of our institutional controls and processes is being conducted. A lot of disturbing facts could and should surface in this matter. The possibility of a tax-payor lawsuit has been mentioned. I fear that I will not be allowed to properly deal with the results of this investigation or allow the community to know what has and is happening to their tax dollars. Three Board members, Shari Wilkens, Maryanne Flippo and Sharon Whelpley are trying to micromanage me to protect Air Assurance. The unintended consequences are grave for the district. I am deeply concerned for the school district.

I did not choose our district legal counsel or RFR for their legal help in the matter because I see each of their positions are compromised in this situation. Please advise if me if other actions need to be taken to halt this dangerous situation.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Sisney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jim Sisney  
Superintendent,  
Broken Arrow Public Schools