

October 11, 2017 HUUSD Board Meeting

Open Meeting Law and Executive Session

I have given the concerns voiced over our May 24th Executive Session a lot of thought. I freely admit I am still on the upward slope of the learning curve when it comes to the State's Open Meeting Law, including when to call an Executive Session. Working in the private sector for a long time, I know there are certain discussions which are never appropriate or respectful if held in front of third parties not directly involved in the discussion. However, I am learning this is not the case for publicly elected officials.

Upon review of my memory of what was discussed at our May 24th Executive Session and what I now know about calling an Executive Session, I firmly believe there was information discussed which appropriately fits the definition for calling an Executive Session. However, I also feel there was discussion which did not as clearly fit the definition. Consequently, I feel we probably should have gone in and out of Executive Session possibly a few times to strictly adhere to the Open Meeting Law. I feel I should say however, in the private sector, the entire conversation would have been in a closed meeting.

Christine mentioned to me the possibility of the Board obtaining additional training on the Open Meeting Law and Executive Sessions. I fully support this. The right of the public to know what their elected officials discuss is a sacred right for which we need to be vigilant. I would never want the public to think we were anything but transparent and I want them to trust we are working together to provide the best educational opportunities to our students while also making sure we are fiscally responsible.