

School Board Violates State Law and Gets Caught-Eight Times at June 11, 2018 School Board Meeting !!! Tried to Hide 2-Hour Discussion With Lawyers too !!! Report by Robert A. Williams

The Cleveland County Schools Board of Education has a major problem following the law. From the simple things like running a meeting to more complex and I would say criminal when they conspire to subvert the law for the purposes of covering up embarrassing and often illegal activities. I have often called those who violate the law “crooks.” This article will just point out what the specific law, what the CCS Board did and how it violated the law.

North Carolina Law – General Statute 143-319.9 Public Policy states: For all NC Governmental agencies that “exist solely to conduct the people’s business, it is the public policy of North Carolina that the hearings, deliberations, and actions of these bodies be conducted openly.

There are other related laws (NCGS 143-318.10) that dictate how this public business is to be conducted openly and NCGS 143-318.11 specifically give a very narrow range of public business which may be conducted in Closed Session. NCGS 143-318.11(c) specifies specifically how a public body must procedurally go into closed session with even more limitations when an attorney is involved. These specific laws that were violated by the School Board at their June 11, 2018 will be

noted below and how they were violated.

1. First of all, very early in the June 11, 2018 School Board meeting agenda the CCS Board approved the minutes of the May `14, 2018 Business meeting. NC General Statute 143-318.10(e) specifically states that "full and accurate minutes of all official meetings" must be kept. If these minutes, which become legal documents when they are approved, are not full and accurate, then a phony and false legal document has been created.

Besides other items such as the "Personnel Reports" which are voted on without confirmation or discussion, an unethical practice I would refuse to participate in, the particular egregious legal violation noted here is the lack of a minutes entry at the end of the meeting where Board member Danny Blanton requested to speak, tried to speak, and was shut down by the Chairman who adjourned the meeting as he was speaking. And she and the other Board members walked off. This started during the meeting and should have been accurately recorded in the minutes as it happened for the minutes to be fair and accurate in accordance with the law.

However, this incident was not recorded at all in the draft minutes that were presented to the School Board for approval at the June 11, 2018 school board meeting. The minutes were approved with no "Nay" votes. Not even from Danny Blanton. A total violation of the law. The broadcast video of the meeting also was stopped or edited to eliminate the incident. Only my article published May 17, 2018 records this incident in detail. Scroll on back and read it to refresh your memory.

2. Although this one incident may be seen by many, including the District Attorney, as just a minor infraction of the law, by this example and others that follow, there is a pattern of knowing violation of law that clearly indicated covering up is the preferred way the CCS School Board handles problems. They just deny problems exist. The problem is, two or more

individuals, knowingly conspiring to violate North Carolina law, is a" conspiracy"-a felony crime.

3. Near end of the June 11. 2018 School Board meeting There was an item on the agenda calling for a "Closed Session" in regard to the Superintendent's (Dr. Fisher)Evaluation. The Board Member's "Crib Sheet," the meeting agenda items broken down item by item with instructions prepared by the Superintendent on what the Board is supposed to do for each item, called for a Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)6.

Board member Jeff Jones made the motion to go into closed session for a personnel matter (the Superintendent's Evaluation) and "to confer with the Boards Attorney." Mr. Jones' motion did not specify the NCGS 143-318.11(a)6 as the Crib Sheet called for or any other correct law related to go into closed session regarding conferring with an attorney. This "conferring with an attorney" was totally not on the agenda anywhere and indicated to me that something major was happening. The Motion was approved and I immediately went up to Mr. Jones before he left for the closed session and asked what this "conferring with an attorney" was all about and that NC Law had restrictions on what specifically was allowed under a closed session. Mr. Jones, being relatively new on the school board, was apparently unaware of the requirements that I was asking him about. But remember, ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking the law.

About that time Superintendent Fisher came over and said the closed session was for a "personnel matter," the Superintendent's Evaluation was inferred. But there were problems there too. I was beginning to smell a rat in all this closed session stuff. The Devil is always in the details. The Board Members all left for the room they use for closed sessions.

The violation of the law at this point was still minor

infractions of NCGS 143-318-11(c) regarding the proper way governmental agencies have to do to go into closed session. Also, the Superintendent's Evaluation should only take 15 minutes or so. The Majority of the Board had already decided what to do with that evaluation, but had to do it back in open session. I thought about leaving like everybody else, but decided to stay to see how much of a raise Fisher would be getting. This conferring with an attorney stuff was also a puzzle.

The Closed Session went on and on.

At one point another person went to the restroom and upon his return stated that Danny Blanton was standing outside the Closed Session Room. Apparently booted out.

More time drags on and on. Something very fishy and smelly was going on. I was certain of that. And something besides the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Finally, after two hours of something behind closed doors, the School Board comes back into Open Session—MINUS Danny Blanton without explanation. Now I knew something fishy was definitely going on. The Board voted to approve Superintendent Fisher's Contract Extension and adjourned the meeting.

But, before they could get away, I asked Chairman Shearra Miller to see a copy of this new contract. She said it was just like the old one. I said it didn't take two hours in closed session to do that. And, What about conferring with the Board Attorney? Chairman Miller admitted they had had a discussion with the Board Attorney about a personnel matter. Superintendent Fisher added that they had discussed a personnel matter with the attorney. Not about the contract extension I replied. Was there another personnel matter discussed? I asked. Then both Miller and Fisher started saying things like "by law we can't discuss what happens in Closed Session," to which I stated by law there are certain things

that have to be discussed in open session.” It was obvious that the CCS School Board had basically illegally gone into a closed session without properly making the original motion.

4. It was also obvious that there was a violation of the law by not stating that there would be other personnel items to discuss in Closed Session besides the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

5 It was also obvious that there was a violation of the law by not stating they would be conferring with their attorney and for what reason.

6. It was obvious that , although Jeff Jones may have been ignorant regarding how to make the motion to go into closed session, he did have knowledge that there were other things that would be discussed in the Closed Session.

7. It was obvious that other Board Members knew that Jeff Jones had made an illegal motion as related to going into closed session, but did not correct it as they could have easily done. It was just as obvious that everybody on the Board, Superintendent Fisher and perhaps others knew and conspired to go into an illegal closed session for the purpose of deceiving the public as well as falsifying public records on the full scope of what was going to happen in Closed Session.

8. Folks, Remember this Closed Meeting that was supposed to be called under NCGS 143-318.11(a)6 to do a Superintendent’s Evaluation. Go read [NCGS 143-318.11\(a\)6](#) very closely. CCS Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher is NOT an initial hire. NCGS 143-318.11(a)6 is also attached to this article for your convenience. This law nor any of the other laws regarding the limited purposes of allowed closes sessions does not apply to the Superintendent’s Evaluation at all. This whole closed session was phony from the gitgo. A smokescreen to deceive the people and cover up for things that have not been fully

discovered yet.

I could go on and on about such illegal activity going on with the CCS Board. Perhaps unethical acts too. Too many to discuss right now since there are other pieces to this puzzle.

Since the pieces of this puzzle involves two hours in after office hours consultation with an attorney, there has to be something legal here. Maybe potential lawsuits against the School Board Members or CCS Staff. Let's list a few recent events that could easily develop into a full fledged lawsuits against CCS, the Board and others.

1. The two teachers that were just fired from James Love Elementary School for "inappropriate disciplinary response" in a disciplinary matter against a four year old black boy. Sources tell me there is evidence of chronic abuse of the boy while at school. Scroll on back a few articles about that.

2. The music teacher at Washington Elementary School who played the inappropriate racial toned music to a number of black students. Scroll on back for that too.

3. The improper suspension of students at Burns High School for displaying racially sensitive flags on their personal vehicles. Again, scroll on back for details as we know them.

4. The Title IX controversy at Shelby High School where the Girls Softball team is being discriminated against in regard to equal sports facilities.

5. The excluded and missing School Board Member Danny Blanton at the end of the June 11, 2018 School Board meeting as described in this article. Mr. Blanton has been picked on and shut down by the rest of the school board for five years now. This last episode described in this article is a total mystery at this point. So, who knows whether or not the CCS Board was conferring with their lawyers on how to get rid of the only

Board Member that asks questions, tries to help save tax dollars and represents the people of Cleveland County/

Stay tuned for other articles about this CCS School Board meeting held June 11, 2018 and other meetings. There is just too much stuff going on to write one article that covers everything.