

Yesterday, the Northwest Herald reported that they have asked the Attorney General's office to investigate whether the district has violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

District 2 joins school district's statewide in its use of Illinois School Law Survey, a publication from Illinois Association of School Boards that contains interpretations of the Illinois School Code. Section 21:60 states as follows:

“21:60 Does the Open Meetings Act apply to collective bargaining negotiations and grievance arbitrations?”

No. Bargaining meetings at which collective bargaining will occur and arbitration hearings are not subject to the Open Meetings Act. The notice requirements and the closed meeting exceptions of the Open Meetings Act are not applicable.

School board meetings held solely to develop strategy, at which no bargaining actually occurs, and board meetings to plan arbitration strategy are subject to the open Meetings Act. 115 ILCS 5/18”

Although the Northwest Herald decided to single out District 2 in its complaint, we can tell you with one hundred percent certainty that we join many other districts in this interpretation of the Open Meetings Act and its application to negotiations. Districts across the entire state will be impacted by the decision of the Attorney General in this matter.

If District 2 finds that its current practice is in error, we will most certainly honor the Attorney General's interpretation and take corrective action.

If you have further questions, we encourage you to attend our regularly scheduled board meeting on May 25, 2010.