

increasing numbers when we most need them; and, as a result of these critical developments, both the efficiency and effectiveness of our public school programs are being seriously affected.

EXCERPTS FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE GRIFFIN-SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ON AUGUST 11, 1966, WITH THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OFFICES OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, WASHINGTON, D.C.: MR. RICH, MR. HAZEL, MR. PERLMAN

(The following people representing the Griffin-Spalding County School System were present: Board of Education Members: C. T. Parker, Chairman, Taylor Manley, John West, Mrs. Edith Newton, Miss Anne Hill Drewry, Russell Smith, Bill Westmoreland, Billy Brooks, and Don Jackson; Superintendent of Schools, George Patrick, Jr.; Assistant School Superintendent, Ben Christie; School Board Attorney, J. C. Owen, Jr.; and School Board Secretary, Mrs. Carter.)

EXHIBIT "A": CLOSED MEETINGS, ETC.

MR. RICH. We are. I think we might have an initial problem here, that is, skipping the introductions, I would ask are some people here members of the public as opposed to members of the Board and school officials?

MR. PARKER. Yes, Sir, there are visitors here other than members of the Board of Education. Notice of this meeting was in the local newspaper and there are probably 4 or 5 visitors who are interested citizens, who are interested in Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education and our school system. Now, we are perfectly willing to take the time to have positive introductions all the way around.

MR. RICH. I think rather than the necessity of that, the point is, that we are authorized to speak on these matters only with the Board and the school officials, because it's a similar kind of thing to a jury, for example, whereby things are expressed in the confines of the jury room, and perhaps there might be some things involving individuals that will come up, or other things that the Board will, naturally, want to keep out of public view until they have discussed the thing, and then they can talk about it with the public. We would certainly have no reservations about your talking to any members of the public or the press after we have had our meeting about what has gone on, but the meeting, itself, we will have to ask that we meet with the Board and school officials.

MR. PARKER. Mr. Owen is our attorney. Are we authorized under the Georgia law to hold a closed meeting of this public body? This is a constitutional body elected by the people of this county.

MR. RICH. We are familiar with the law, sir, and we have gone through this several times on this trip, and also, the times in the past, and we are also familiar with the practice of many Boards, for example, where they are discussing teachers, as to whether they should be re-elected or not, or teachers being fired, or new teachers being elected, often do hold executive sessions, and we, in addition to that, we would only be authorized to meet with the Board and the school officials. It is certainly a very common practice for Georgia Boards to meet only among themselves.

MR. CUMMING. My name is Cumming, J. R. Cumming. I am head of the Savings and Loan Association in Griffin. I am an attorney. This is a public body, public officials, this is public business affecting every child in this county. I fail to see what is secret about it. This is public business.

MR. RICH. Well, sir, the same—by the same token a jury—

MR. CUMMING (interposing). This is not public business?

MR. RICH. Yes, sir, it certainly is.

MR. CUMMING. There is no connection with all the people, with the man there? This is a public body on a matter that affects every one of us.

MR. RICH. Well, I would say I will have to disagree with you.

MR. CUMMING. Are your instructions are that no citizen of this county can sit in this meeting that you are attending with the Board of Education?

MR. RICH. Yes, sir.

MR. CUMMING. No other reason? If that is your instruction, I would like to know that. I would not embarrass the Board by holding the meeting up.

MR. RICH. Yes, sir, that is our authorization.

MR. CUMMING. Does that come from Washington?

MR. RICH. Yes, sir.