



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN

GERALD C. MANN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Hon. L. A. Woods  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Austin, T e x a s

Dear Sir:           Att'n: Mr. T. M. Trimble

Opinion No. 0-2133

Re: Under the circumstances set forth, may the Board of the Reagan Independent School District call an executive session and legally conduct the regular business of the school district?

We are in receipt of your letter of recent date, with enclosure of a letter to you from Mr. A. F. Pearce, President of the Reagan School Board. We quote from the letter of Mr. Pearce to you for the factual background of your request.

"The regular board meetings of the Reagan Independent School District have been disturbed by visitors to the extent that it is impossible for the board to transact business. We have always allowed the meetings of the board to be open to the general public except on a very few occasions when the board has held executive sessions. Some of the citizens have objected to such meetings by the board of trustees.

"In the face of a board meeting being disturbed by the attendance of more people than will permit the properly conducting of business, may the board call an executive session and exclude all visitors and legally conduct the regular business of the school district."

Any board, tribunal or official body possesses the inherent right to preserve such order and decorum

Re: L. A. Woods, page 2

in its meetings as is essential to the proper trans-  
action of its business. It may take such steps as  
necessary to do this, even to the point of closing  
such meetings to the public.

There is no statute requiring meetings of the  
Board of an Independent School District to be open to  
the public and we perceive no reason why such boards  
may not call an executive session and exclude visitors  
therefrom.

We, therefore, respectfully answer your ques-  
tion in the affirmative, and remain

Yours very truly

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

By *Zollie C. Steakley*  
Zollie C. Steakley  
Assistant

APPROVED APR 4, 1940

ZCS:ob

*H. H. Moore*  
FIRST ASSISTANT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

