

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF NEVADA

In the Matter of:

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

A.G. FILE NO.:13897-492 &
13897-525

FINDINGS OF FACT
AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Adrienne Sawyer filed a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) alleging violations of the Nevada Open Meeting Law (“OML”) by the Douglas County School District Board of Trustees (“Board”) regarding events occurring between its July 19, 2023, and August 8, 2023, meetings. Jennifer Wilson filed a complaint with the OAG alleging violations of the OML by the Board regarding communications between Board members outside of meetings also occurring in 2023.

The OAG has the authority to investigate and prosecute violations of the OML. NRS 241.039. As discussed below, the Board is not contesting that violations of the OML occurred related to the allegations in the two Complaints. In addition, the Board has taken steps to seek experienced legal counsel regarding OML matters and will be receiving training on the OML. As such, the OAG issues this Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law pursuant to NRS 241.039(8)(b).

ALLEGATIONS

The Sawyer complaint alleges that the Board approved a contract with Joey Gilbert Law at its July 19, 2023, meeting, but that the contract signed by Board officers in early August was materially different.

The Wilson complaint alleges that serial communications occurred between at least four (4) members of the Board, a quorum, regarding whether to terminate the Superintendent’s contract outside of public meetings. The Superintendent ultimately resigned and no action was taken regarding his contract.

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 1. The Board received eighteen (18) OML complaints, not including the two at
3 issue in this opinion, in 2023 and 2024 resulting in four (4) Findings of Fact and Conclusions
4 of Law issued by the OAG.¹

5 2. The Board voted to terminate its contract with Maupin, Cox, and LeGoy at its
6 July 19, 2023, public meeting and to hire Joey Gilbert Law as its counsel.

7 3. On or about August 3, 2023, the Board President and Clerk signed a contract
8 with Joey Gilbert Law that contained materially different terms than the contract that had
9 been approved by the Board.

10 4. Three (3) Board members communicated as a quorum outside of a public
11 meeting when they attempted to convince a fourth Board member to vote to terminate the
12 Superintendent's contract.

13 5. The Board voted to replace Joey Gilbert Law with Ryan Russell of Allison
14 MacKenzie Ltd. on January 14, 2025.

15 **LEGAL STANDARDS AND CONCLUSION OF LAW**

16 The Douglas County School District Board of Trustees, as the governing body of a
17 public school district in Nevada, is a "public body" as defined in NRS 241.015(5) and is subject
18 to the OML.

19 **A. Sawyer Complaint**

20 For elected public bodies, such as the Board, "action" means an affirmative vote by a
21 majority of members of the Board. NRS 241.015(1)(d). Individual members do not have power
22 beyond that delegated to them. *Id.* The approval and execution process for the Board's
23 contract with Joey Gilbert Law did not follow proper OML procedures as agreeing to changes
24 to the contract required further action by the Board, which did not occur. Thus, the OAG
25 finds a violation of the OML.

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28 ¹ *Lehman v. Douglas County School District*, OMLO 13897-473 (Jun. 7, 2024); *Hokenson v. Douglas County School District*, OMLO 13897-510 (Apr. 16, 2025); *Hiatt v. Douglas County School District*, OMLO 13897-508 (Jun. 23, 2025); *McGuffin v. Douglas County School District*, OMLO 13897-472 (Jul. 23, 2025).

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The OAG makes findings of fact and conclusions of law that the Douglas County School District Board of Trustees violated the OML as described above. If the Attorney General investigates a potential OML violation and makes findings of fact and conclusions of law that a public body has taken action in violation of the OML, “the public body must include an item on the next agenda posted for a meeting of the public body which acknowledges the findings of fact and conclusions of law.” NRS 241.0395. The public body must treat the opinion of the Attorney General as supporting material for the agenda item(s) in question for the purpose of NRS 241.020. *Id.* Accordingly, the Board must place an item on its next meeting agenda in which it acknowledges the present Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law (“Opinion”) resulting from the OAG’s investigation in this matter. The Board must also include the OAG Opinion in the supporting materials for its next meeting.

Dated: September 22, 2025.

AARON FORD
Attorney General

By: /s/ Rosalie Bordelove
 ROSALIE BORDELOVE
 Chief Deputy Attorney General

