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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 11:02 PM
To: Access, Public
Subject: OMA Request for Review
Attachments: ResolutionFinalCopy-3.pdf

I would like to file an OMA Request for Review pertaining to events relating to a Carbondale Elementary School District No. 95 School Board meeting held Thursday, July 23rd, 2015 at 7pm. The facts pertaining to this event are outlined below.

- In early July 2015, I submitted a request to the School Board of Carbondale Elementary School District No. 95 to comment in open session of the July 23rd board meeting. I stated in the request that my purpose was to read a resolution that was voted on by the teachers of the school district.
- On July 9, I received a message from the board president notifying me I could not comment in open session because my comment was related to a personnel issue. I was told I could only comment in closed session. I elected to read a different statement than originally planned in closed session.
- At the end of the July 23rd school board meeting a parent/community member requested to address the board.
- At the July 23rd board meeting the parent/ community member started to read a statement to the board. He was repeatedly interrupted and told that he had to speak in relation to items on the agenda, he could not speak, he had to talk about math and if he continued to speak the board would have to go into closed session.
- The board ultimately voted to go into closed session while the parent/ community member was speaking without stating what the purpose was for going into closed session.
- There were other community members including myself who wanted to address the board but were not given that opportunity when the board entered closed session.
- When the board returned to open session most of the audience had left and no opportunity was given for public comments. The board only voted to adjourn the meeting.
- Here are two separate links to video recorded of the board meeting. One video was taken by the local newspaper and the other video was taken by the school district. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZWQ_Vnq17Y and http://ces95.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=168 The incidents in which I have referred takes place in the last 5 minutes of the second video as well as throughout the entire first video.
- The statement I planned to read in open session is attached.

I am concerned that the school board violated the open meetings act by not identifying the reason for going into closed session, not going into closed session for one of the allowable reasons and for attempting to limit the speech of community members.

It is my understanding that public bodies have some power to create policies regarding public comment. It is my concern that the school board did not follow their own policies until the past several months when they didn't like the comments they were hearing and chose to limit them. As recently as December 2014 if not several months later the school board in no way attempted to limit public comments to agenda items or in any other way.

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Angela Grimmer, President
Carbondale Education Association