

## Legal Advice from Attorney Gorrow (4/20/21)

Thank you so much for the advice you provided regarding Board emails. I have a few follow up questions from Board members:

- *Must* we continue to include the statement that is on the top of our agendas? I'm referring to:

*We encourage residents who wish to provide public input or have questions about the agenda items to submit them via email to [schoolboard@sau33.com](mailto:schoolboard@sau33.com), or call in and comment/ask questions over the phone during the public input portion of the meeting. (Please note that emails sent to [schoolboard@sau33.com](mailto:schoolboard@sau33.com) are considered public.) Residents may also choose to attend the meeting in person. Those in attendance will be required to wear masks and abide by social distancing guidelines.*

No, the School Board is not required to include the statement on top of the agenda. If it is holding a meeting remotely, it could require those who want to provide public input to call in or participate by zoom or whatever application is used to conduct the meeting.

- What about correspondence that is received between meetings (not during)? Do we need to read those emails at the meeting, perhaps during an agenda item called 'correspondence'? Alternatively, during public input?

The District has no obligation to read correspondence received between meetings at a meeting. There may be issues raised in the correspondence that the Board wants to address at a subsequent meeting. The Board can decide the process, if any, it wants to use to review that correspondence.

- If the Board has a topic that prompts many emails, must they read *all* of them (ex. if there are 30.. or 50)? What if they become redundant (ex. 15 in support of keeping the band program)? Can they summarize or must they read word for word?

If the emails are not received during public input, the Board can summarize the emails. If all the emails are received during public input under the current practice that invites emails, the Board should read each email. The emails should also be read if they are submitted during a public hearing.