



# STATE OF INDIANA

**MIKE BRAUN, Governor**

**PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR  
JENNIFER RUBY**

Indiana Government Center South  
402 West Washington Street, Room W470  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2745  
Telephone: (317) 234-0906  
Email: [pac@opac.in.gov](mailto:pac@opac.in.gov)  
Website: [www.IN.gov/pac](http://www.IN.gov/pac)

February 18, 2026

Re: Complaint 25-FC-174  
Ryan Szeszycki (Complainant) v.  
Irvington Community Schools Board of Governors (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed on August 12, 2025.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on October 15, 2025, requesting a formal response by November 13, 2025. A formal response submitted by Attorney Alexandria Curlin of Curlin & Clay Law Association of Attorneys on behalf of Respondent, was received in this office on November 13, 2025.

The complaint alleges that Respondent violated the Open Door Law (ODL) by cancelling a regular meeting on August 8, 2025, and then rescheduling to an Executive Session on August 12, 2025 to take final action on an employee contract.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Open Door Law (ODL) requires public agencies to conduct and take official actions openly, unless otherwise expressly provided by statute, so the people may be fully informed. Indiana Code (IC) 5-14-1.5-1. As a result, the ODL requires all meetings of the governing bodies of public agencies to be open at all times to allow members of the public to observe and record the proceedings. IC 5-14-1.5-3(a).

ODL does provide certain exceptions to the open public meeting through the provisions for executive sessions. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b). Executive sessions may be held only in the following instances:

- ...(5) To receive information about and interview prospective employees.
- ...(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation, employee specific compensation, or employment matters of individual employees.

Complainant acknowledges that Respondent held an executive session. Complainant states that a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the new CEO

was cancelled on the day of the meeting and an executive session was scheduled. Complainant alleges that Respondent took a vote at that executive session to select a new CEO, which is a violation of ODL.

The special board meeting notice of cancellation noted that the Board's next public meeting would be August 27, 2025. The ODL does not address cancellation of a regularly scheduled meeting, leaving cancellation of meetings within the discretion of the Board.

Complainant and Respondent agree that an executive session was noticed and took place on August 12, 2025. IC 5-14-1.5-5 describes the meeting notice requirements including posting forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting at the principal office of the public agency or if not principal office, at the building where the meeting is to be held.

The ODL requires that the notice of the executive session specifically identify which provisions of the executive session exceptions are being considered at the meeting.

Respondent provided that a notice of the executive session was properly and timely posted in accordance with the ODL. The notice referenced sections IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5) "to receive information about and interview prospective employees" and IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) "to discuss a job performance of individual employees."

Respondent stated that there was no vote taken at the executive session regarding the employment of the CEO. Respondent stated that all discussions held during the executive session were conducted within the limited provisions of the ODL and allowable executive sessions.

Respondent further stated:

*The Executive Session did not include any final action or vote. Consistent with Indiana Code [Section] 5-14-1.5-6(c), no votes or binding decisions were made during this session. Any official action regarding leadership appointments or contracts occurred in a subsequent public meeting announced in compliance with ODL.*

## **CONCLUSION**

This office finds that the Respondent did not violate ODL as alleged in the complaint.



Jennifer G. Ruby  
Public Access Counselor