

Freedom of Information Commission
of the State of Connecticut

In the Matter of a Complaint by)

Joseph P. Krist, Jr., Complainant) Report of Hearing Officer

against) Docket #FIC 76-100

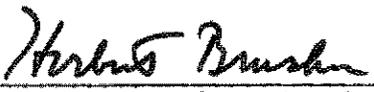
Town of Hebron and Hebron Board) July 19, 1976

of Education, Respondents)

1. The respondents are public agencies.
2. On May 13, 1976, at a regular meeting of the respondent Board of Education, complainant presented to respondent board a petition signed by 368 people asking respondent board to withdraw from a Regional organization known as the "Central Office Committee."
3. The petition was placed on the agenda for the June 10, 1976 meeting of the Board.
4. Subsequent to the May 13, 1976 meeting, the chairman of the respondent board telephoned some signers of this petition.
5. On or about May 24, 1976, the chairman telephoned other board members to ask them to assist him in calling petitioners.
6. The chairman says his purpose in calling petitioners was to inquire into their reasons for signing the petition.
7. The action of the chairman of the respondent board in calling a quorum of board members constituted a telephonic meeting as defined in Section 1(b) of P.A. 75-342.

ORDER

1. Because there is insufficient evidence to show that the telephonic meeting resulted in substantive action this complaint is dismissed.
2. The Commission advises that a telephonic meeting, to which some board members and the public are denied access, opens a gray area in which tentative decisions or other substantive actions become possible. It is preferable that all such business be conducted at a regular or special meeting, in full view of all board members and the public, in conformity with the purposes of P.A. 75-342.


Commissioner Herbert Brucker

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission
on July 28, 1976.


Mitchell Pearlman
Acting Clerk of the Commission