

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by  
Susan Mecteau,

Complainant

Report of Hearing Officer

against

Docket #FIC80-55

City and Town of Norwich; and  
Board of Education of the City  
and Town of Norwich,

May 9, 1980

Respondents

The above captioned matter was scheduled for hearing on April 15, 1980 with #FIC80-66, K. J. Ring v. City and Town of Norwich; and Board of Education of the City and Town of Norwich, because the complaints concerned related subject matter and the same respondents. All parties appeared at hearing, at which time they presented evidence and argument on the complaints.

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letter filed with the Commission on February 22, 1980, the complainant alleged that sometime prior to February 5, 1980 the respondent board held an illegal secret meeting in violation of the requirements of §1-21, G.S., at which time a majority of the respondent board determined not to renew the contract of the superintendent of schools.
3. On February 5, 1980, the chairman of the respondent board had lunch with the superintendent of schools and informed him that there were five votes, a majority of the board, against renewal of his contract.
4. The superintendent called one of the board members subsequently and attempted to verify the chairman's remarks.
5. The aforesaid board member was unaware of a meeting to decide to terminate the superintendent's contract.
6. The chairman based his remarks at the February 5, 1980 luncheon on attitudes expressed by board members at previous meetings.
7. At a meeting of the respondent board on February 19, 1980, the board voted 5-4 in favor of a motion not to renew the superintendent's contract.
8. It is found that the complainant failed to prove that the matter of the termination of the superintendent's contract was discussed at an illegal secret meeting prior to February 5, 1980.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.



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Commissioner William J. Clew  
as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on July 21,  
1980.



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Leslie Ann McGuire  
Clerk of the Commission