

May 5, 2026
Nicole De Graff
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I'm unable to attend the training, but I'd appreciate guidance on a specific scenario.

During the process for filling a board vacancy, a smaller group (superintendent, board chair, and vice chair) met and:

- discussed and refined the process (including timeline, steps
- added or modified interview questions, and
- gathered input from at least another board member, the vice chair on preferences related to shaping the process of selecting a new member.

This work shaped what was later brought forward to the full board.

Questions:

1. At what point does this type of activity constitute “deliberation” under Oregon Public Meetings Law rather than administrative preparation?
2. Would this scenario raise concerns under Public Meetings Law, and should this type of meeting be publicly noticed?
3. Does gathering input from individual board members in this context away from the public or the rest of the board raise concerns about serial deliberation?
4. What are best practices to ensure the process for shaping agenda items established transparently and by the full board?

I want to make sure our board is handling this appropriately and maintaining public trust.

Thank you.
Nicole

Board Member
Position 4
Springfield Public Schools

OGEc

Could you please read the following message and questions from Director Nicole De Graff, who is unable to attend the training this evening.

Also, if you could please follow up with answers to her questions via email and cc myself – martie.steigleder@springfield.k12.or.us

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Martie Steigleder
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
School Board Secretary
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