

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Tao Woolfe

Report of Hearing Officer

vs.

Docket #FIC81-199

Town of Cromwell and Board
of Education of the Town of
Cromwell

April 12, 1982

The above captioned matter was scheduled for hearing on April 2, 1982 at which time the parties appeared and presented evidence and argument.

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE, hereinafter) requested and was granted intervenor status in this proceeding.

After consideration of the entire record the following facts are found:


1. The respondent is a public agency within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letter filed with the Commission December 11, 1981 the complainant alleged that respondent board of education had held an illegal executive session for the purpose of an evaluation by a representative of CABE.
3. The respondent board claimed that the executive session was proper under §1-18a(e)1, G.S. which provides in relevant part that an executive session may be held for the purpose of "discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee . . .".
4. The chairman of the respondent board had requested that CABE provide an evaluation of the process of the board.
5. The evaluation concerned how the board membership interacted, how they perceived themselves and how they interacted with the other board members.
6. No business was presented or discussed.
7. The evaluation process was initiated by having board members fill out a questionnaire with general questions regarding the functioning of the board.

8. The process of the evaluation was stressful. Feelings and attitudes were expressed which would not have been expressed if the meeting had been public.

9. It is found that the executive session was held for a proper purpose within the meaning of §1-18a(e)(1), G.S.


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.



Commissioner Robert J. Leeney
as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of May 12, 1982.



Mary Jo Jolicoeur
Clerk of the Commission