1982 WL 189361 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina July 12, 1982

*1 The Honorable Tobias Gadson, Sr. Member House of Representatives 162 Spring Street Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Dear Representative Gadson:

You have requested the opinion of this Office on the question of whether it is permissible for a teacher residing in Charleston County, but teaching in Berkeley County, to serve on the Charleston County School Board. The only prohibition of which I am aware regarding teachers serving as school trustees is found in § 59-19-300 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended. That statute makes it unlawful for a school trustee to receive pay as a teacher in a public school located in the same school district in which he or she serves as a trustee. The apparent rationale behind such a provision is to avoid conflict of interest problems from arising in the Board's decisions that affect teachers in its district. This problem would not occur if the teacher taught in a different district from the one in which he or she served as a trustee.

Therefore, it is the opinion of this Office that a teacher residing in Charleston County but teaching in Berkeley County may serve on the Charleston County School Board.

Very truly yours,

Helen T. Zeigler State Attorney

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