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*20th Judicial Circuit*

**Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 14, 2007**

State Attorney Steve Russell has issued the following statement in relation to the Collier County School Board:

“We are continuing to monitor the situation, as we have from the outset. As part of this process, we are reviewing the materials that have been sent to this office by the school board and the chamber of commerce.

This office has neither the intent nor authority to second-guess the decisions of elected officials, or otherwise intervene in the political process of the school board or any governing body. Rather, we may only attempt to determine, from the available evidence, whether there has been a violation of the Sunshine Law, which prohibits two or more board members from privately discussing public business outside of a properly noticed public meeting.

Any further actions by this office, including a decision on whether a formal investigation is warranted, will be based on the circumstances and evidence that may be found to exist.”

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