

**Arlington Independent School District
Public Complaint Form
Level One**

Complete this form in accordance with District policy GF (LOCAL). Your complaint will be dismissed if it is submitted with incomplete information. Submit your Level One complaint via email to HREmployeeRelations@aisd.net

1. Name **DAVID L. JARVIS**
2. Address & Telephone Number **500 Dorcas Lane, Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 991-7153**
3. The date of the event or action that gave rise to this complaint **10-20-23.**
4. A detailed factual description of all the circumstance(s) that gave rise to this complaint. (Use additional pages if necessary)

See attached affidavit dated 11-1-23. The Board has refused to comment or respond to my proposal to increase the time allowed at school board meetings for any individual desiring to speak on non-agenda items during the open public forum period.

5. Explain specifically how you were harmed or injured by the facts that you provided in response to item 4 above.

I am harmed and injured because the current two minute maximum per speaker allowed clearly does not afford any parent or taxpayer a fair and adequate opportunity to fully express their concerns to the Board.

6. Identify and attach any documents upon which you will rely during the complaint process and explain what those documents will prove.

See attached affidavit dated 11-1-23.

The district wants to have all complaints resolved informally or at the lowest possible level. Explain your efforts to informally resolve your complaint including whom you spoke with, when you met, and the response you received. If you did not attempt informal resolution, give a detailed explanation why not.

My informal efforts are fully explained in the attached affidavit.

Identify the remedy you seek for this complaint. In other words, what do you want us to do in response to your complaint?

I simply want the Board to increase the time allowed for each speaker from the current two minute maximum to an increased five minute maximum. -



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized cursive letters, positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature

11-1-23

Date Submitted

Name, address, telephone and fax number of representative, if any.

Email **djarvis1776@icloud.com**

Sworn Affidavit

The State of Texas

County of Tarrant

David L. Jarvis, of Arlington, Texas, personally came and appeared before me, the undersigned Notary Public, and makes this his statement, testimony and General Affidavit under oath or affirmation, in good faith, and under penalty of perjury, of sincere belief and personal knowledge that the following matters, facts, and things set forth are true and correct, to the best of his knowledge:

1. The Board of Trustees of the Arlington Independent School District (the Board) clearly has the responsibility to comply with all laws. Chapter 26 of the Texas Education Code, Section 26.001(a) states that **“Parents are partners with educators, administrators, and school district boards of trustees in their children’s education.”** Another relevant law is found in Chapter 4 of the Texas Education Code. Section 4.001 (b) lists the objectives of public education. This section states: **“OBJECTIVE 1: Parents will be full partners with educators in the education of their children.”** (my bold emphasis)
2. It is impossible for AISD parents to fully benefit from these state laws and adequately partner with the Board in the education of their children unless the Board is willing to allow adequate time for parents and taxpayers to make public comments to the Board during school board meetings. As a taxpayer, I fully expect the Board to comply with all Texas state laws, including Section 26.001 (a) and Section 4.001 (b) of the Texas Education Code. To fully comply with this Texas law, the conduct

of the Board must always reflect the Board's good faith efforts to ensure that "parents will be full partners with educators in the education of their children." Part of the Board's "good faith effort" to partner with parents would be to allow adequate time for both parents and taxpayers to speak to the Board about matters of interest to both parents and taxpayers. The Board website now states that public comments by any speaker is limited to a two-minute maximum.

3. One effective way to measure whether the Board truly considers parents as "full partners" is whether the Board is willing to provide parents and taxpayers with sufficient time to address the Board during school board meetings. If the Board refuses to provide adequate public comment time, AISD parents and taxpayers have good reason to doubt that the Board is acting in good faith and whether the Board is truly serious about listening and responding to the issues raised by AISD parents and taxpayers during the public comment period.
4. I recently reviewed the AISD Board of Trustees 2023-24 Handbook. Page 10 of this publication discusses the ground rules for citizens addressing the Board. Section C. (2)(a) states that "**Comments are usually limited to 5 minutes or may be set at the discretion of the President.**" (my bold emphasis). It is confusing to parents and taxpayers when the Board website lists a two-minute limit, and the AISD Board Handbook lists a five-minute limit for a non-agenda public comment period. It would be helpful if the Board clarified this conflicting information.
5. On 10-9-23, I sent an email to the Board requesting that the Board increase the amount of time allowed for speakers at future school board meetings during the non-agenda open forum public comment period. In that email, I proposed the following

changes: a) a total maximum of 30 minutes allowed for all non-agenda public comment speakers; b) a maximum of 5 minutes allowed for each speaker; and c) if there are more than 6 speakers, the time allowed for each speaker would be determined by the dividing the number of speakers into 30 minutes (for example, with 10 speakers, each speaker would be limited to 3 minutes).

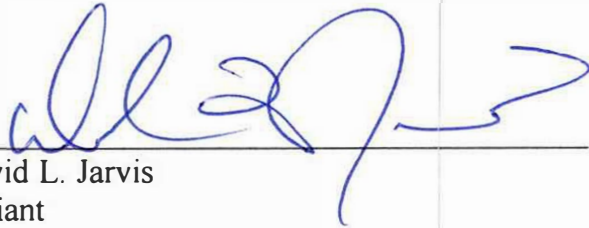
6. In my 10-9-23 email to the Board, I invited the Board to discuss and comment on my proposal. I asked the Board to communicate with me and share their comments on my proposal (both positive and negative). From 10-9-23 to the present, the Board has chosen to completely ignore my proposal. Although AISD policy encourages the Board to seek informal resolution of issues to avoid use of AISD grievance policy – the Board has shown no interest in responding to my 10-9-23 email to informally resolve this matter.
7. In my 10-9-23 email to the Board, I informed the Board that I preferred to resolve this issue informally with email communications or in person. However, I also gave the Board a response deadline. I informed the Board that if they refused to respond to my 10-9-23 email by Friday, 10-20-23 – then I would be forced to file a formal grievance to compel AISD to take a written position on my proposal.
8. The refusal of the elected Board to respond to my simple proposal detailed in this affidavit sends a troubling message to all AISD parents and taxpayers – that the Board has refused to show proper respect for AISD parents and taxpayers. On the Board’s website, the Board proudly states that “school board members are guardians of the public trust”. **If the Board is being sincere in their stated desire to be “guardians of the public trust”, then it is vital that the Board send a clear**

message to AISD taxpayers that the Board is genuinely interested in giving all parents and taxpayers sufficient time to allow them to fairly express their views and concerns to the Board in an open public forum at school board meetings. If the Board refuses to show proper respect to the public by allowing taxpayers adequate and reasonable time to publicly address the Board – such a refusal will undermine public confidence in the fairness and judgment of the Board.

9. If the AISD Board of Trustees believes any statements in this affidavit are not accurate or are misleading/incomplete, please inform me and I will take appropriate action as needed to revise this affidavit.

All statements made are of my own knowledge and are true and correct.

Dated and executed this 15th day of November 2023.




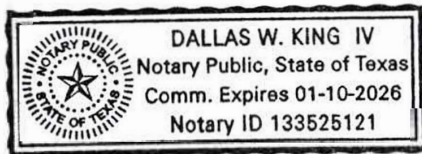
David L. Jarvis
Affiant

The State of Texas

County of Tarrant

Before me, Dallas W. King IV, Notary Public, on this day personally appeared David L. Jarvis, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing sworn affidavit under penalty of perjury, and acknowledged to me that they voluntarily executed this affidavit.

Given under my hand and official seal this 15th day of November 2023.



Dallas W. King IV, Notary Public, State of Texas
My commission expires: 01-10-2026