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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yorkville Community Unit School District 115 Public Access Opinion Statement

(Yorkville) - On December 27, 2023, the Board of Education received a binding opinion from the Attorney General's office stating that the Board violated the Open Meetings Act ("OMA") by holding a discussion regarding a curriculum complaint during the closed session portion of its August 7, 2023, meeting.

At the August 7, 2023, meeting, the Board believed that it was following the proper exceptions allowed by OMA to discuss a parent's uniform grievance procedure complaint in closed session. Specifically, the closed session was intended to protect student privacy and to protect the privacy of the employees that were the subject of the complaint. As required under OMA, the Board kept an audio recording of its discussion and fully cooperated with the Attorney General's investigation. Importantly, the Board's votes regarding this matter were conducted in open session pursuant to valid agenda items that were publicly posted in advance of the August 7th meeting. Relevant documents concerning this matter were released to the public with appropriate redactions in response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, in the interests of transparency.

While the Attorney General's office disagreed with the Board's cited OMA exceptions and directed the Board to release the closed minutes and audio recording (with redactions), it did not challenge the validity of the Board's final action taken on August 7, 2023, in open session, which was properly posted on the meeting agenda.

The Board remains committed to compliance and transparency in its operations. The Board plans to discuss the matter and take public action at its January 22, 2024, regular meeting, in response to the Attorney General's binding opinion. The public is welcome to attend all public

Board meetings, where all final actions of the Board take place and all closed sessions are recorded if later review is necessary in connection with any compliance review.

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