



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

400 E Silverspoon Avenue - Granville, IL 61326
(815)882-2800 x 5

February 11th, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Michael Henry
michaelfhenry@live.com

Dear Mr. Henry:

This letter serves as the timely response of Putnam County Community Unit School District 535 (the “District”) to your Illinois Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request received on February 5, 2026, seeking the following records and information from 2019 through the present:

1. copies of all bonds sold by the District. This only needs to happen if the District did not comply the required background checks.
2. the firm and name of the Districts Primary Attorney. If no primary Attorney, please list all Firms and Attorneys employed by your School District from Jan 1, 2019 Forward.
3. Documentation the District Complied with Illinois law and performed the background checks the District Superintendent is supposed to perform of who ever is designated to perform The Background Checks for Board members Prior to them being Goven the Oath Of Office. Please Provide the background reports as Required under Illinois Law for each School Board elected in the State Of Illinois from 2010 Present, Performed by Each of the Government Entities in this Email.

Response

In response to Part 1 of your request, this part of your request is unclear and does not identify whether you seek the resolutions authorizing the bonds, the official statements, or the bond transcript. The District complied with all required background checks, as Section 10-21.9 of the School Code only applies to employees and certain contractors, not Board members. If you nonetheless seek specific records related to bonds, please clarify your request.

In response to Part 2 of your request, the District’s primary attorney contact is Matthew Swift, a partner at Robbins Schwartz Ltd. The District’s previous primary attorney contacts during this period were Chris Gorman and Dennis Weedman from the same firm.

In response to Part 3 of your request, please be advised that Section 10-21.9 of the School Code only applies to employees and certain contractors, not Board members. Further, even if the District had criminal background check results for a Board member who was a former employee, such records would be prohibited from disclosure pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(a), citing Section 10-21.9 of the School Code, and as personal information the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of privacy pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(a), citing 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9; 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c).

Conclusion

I am the person responsible for the partial denial of your request. You may ask the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor (PAC) to review this decision concerning your records request, by submitting a Request for Review to the PAC by electronic mail or U.S. Mail within 60 days after this response. A Request for Review by the PAC should be directed to: Public Access Bureau, Office of the Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62701, public.access@ilag.gov, 1-877-299-FOIA. You also have the right to review by a court of law pursuant to FOIA Section 11.

Sincerely,



Dr. Clayton J. Theisinger
FOIA Officer