



River Forest  
Public Schools

Administration Building  
7776 Lake Street  
River Forest, IL 60305  
Phone: 708-771-8282  
Fax: 708-771-8291

June 9, 2022

VIA E-MAIL TO

[steffani@myhappilife.com](mailto:steffani@myhappilife.com)

Dear Ms. LeFevour:

On June 2, 2022, the School District received your request for records, as follows:

*Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/1 et set., We request any and all public documents, including, but not limited to, emails, memos, text messages, phone records and meeting notes between and among D90 Board members and other District faculty including Alison Hawley, Larry Gartski and all teachers and parents regarding the District's decision to implement and continue block instruction in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year. In addition, please include all aforementioned public documents, including public comment, related to the April 5th and May 16th D90 Board meetings. And any and all communication with staff members and parents with questions and concerns with the block schedule.*

*A few additional more specific requests:*

- The name and findings of any consultants retained by D90 to provide advice on block schedule, around 2018, including but not limited to any internal conclusions to follow or reject or modify the consultants recommendations.*
- All internal memos, emails and reports regarding the decision to utilize block scheduling for the 21-22 school year, including the decision to utilize a four period block.*
- All internal memos, emails and reports regarding the decision to reject block schedules that were more than 4 periods a day.*
- All emails, notes and letters from parents and guardians advising that a four period block was not the best way to teach their children.*
- All surveys and polls conducted and the findings as they pertain to the block schedule.*

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*All internal memos, email and reports, including but not limited to memos to teachers around handling thereof, regarding increased behavior incidences amongst students, including but not limited to, walking the hall, increasing gaming use on the iPad during instructional time, phone use during instructional time and other behavior issues that relate to the 4 period block schedule.*

While the School District attempts to process all such requests as expeditiously as possible, including requests that encompass a voluminous amount of information, we anticipate a delay in processing your request for the reason or reasons checked below:

- The requested records are stored in whole or in part at locations other than the office having charge of the records.
- The request requires the collection of a substantial number of specified records.
- The request is couched in categorical terms and requires an extensive search for the requested records.
- The requested records have not been located in the course of routine search and additional efforts are being made to locate them.
- The requested records require examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt from disclosure or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions.
- The request for records cannot be complied with by the District within the time limits set forth in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of the District.
- There is a need for consultation, which will be conducted with all practicable speed, with another public body or among two or more components of a public body having a substantial interest in the determination or in the subject matter of the request.

This extends the response deadline by five (5) business days, to June 16, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the content of this correspondence, please contact the School District's Administrative Office for assistance.

Sincerely,

RIVER FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 90

Handwritten signature of Edward J. Condon in black ink.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Edward J. Condon, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools and  
Freedom of Information Act Officer

**From:** Steffani LeFevour steffani@myhappylife.com  
**Subject:** Re: Town hall meeting request  
**Date:** June 2, 2022 at 3:11 PM  
**To:** Ed Condon condone@district90.org, board@district90.org, Barb Hickey hickeyb@district90.org  
**Cc:** Larry Garstki garstki@district90.org, Alison Hawley hawleya@district90.org, Sandra Vasquez ,  
Anne Powers , Robin Basney , Libby and Scott ,  
Holly Utter , Nash Emily , Heather Ignoffo  
Lailani Workman , Marwa Shammam , Stappona  
Renee Pederson, Colleen Caulliez , Amy Guralnick  
Amy , Katie Iammartino , Kyle Popovich , Ross Lissuzzo  
Vanessa Druckman , Krista Lambe , Sara Wienkes  
Julianne Nery

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Dear Dr Condon, Mr Gartski, and the D90 board,

*If the district's goal is to work with our community as partners, we don't think it is too much to ask to have a community conversation around one of the largest school scheduling shifts we've seen in sometime, particularly on the back end of covid. The worst case scenario is no one shows up and the townhall night is over. The best case scenario is you've reached out to and engaged more families who care about education and want to partner with the district to see how block scheduling is going for teachers and students. How is that not something the district wants to do?*

*While we appreciate the fact that this topic was covered on the board's timetable and discussed in open session, many in our community have conflicts in the evenings which include taking our children to games, activities etc. We hope those meetings were constructive for the community in addition to the district. We will encourage folks in our community to watch those meetings if you can forward the links. That being said, we are now looking to re engage on this topic and we hope the district would be open to learning even more from an even broader swath of parents than showed up for those two meetings.*

*It was disappointing to hear in your response that you feel the district is covered off on this topic citing two dates and an agenda when we provided 75 signatures. We understand that at some point there may be diminishing returns when it comes to the number of questions asked. However, this is brand new and we've barely scratched the surface as to what this means for our students, teachers, learning and our community.*

*While we are hearing about school administrations and school board members across the country digging their heels in and not engaging with parents, we have not felt that way to date and we would not have thought such a national trend would creep into D90. An unwillingness to have a broader conversation is nudging towards such an unhealthy community / school construct.*

*Thoughtful leaders should always be open to challenge and input from stakeholders. Two board meetings that are likely packed with many other topics does NOT suggest a full openness to conversation, collaboration or respect to our community. Asking for a community update and townhall conversation is simply not too much to ask for on this subject. We ask that you reconsider and schedule a meeting prior to the end of year or over the summer.*

*Again, this is about community dialogue and feedback.*

*Additionally, since your email clearly states a denial to the request for more information and an open dialog we would like to submit the following in accordance with Illinois law and the Freedom of Information Act....*

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/1 et set., We request any and all public documents, including, but not limited to, emails, memos, text messages, phone records and meeting notes between and among D90 Board members and other District faculty including Alison Hawley, Larry Gartski and all teachers and parents

regarding the District's decision to implement and continue block instruction in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year. In addition, please include all aforementioned public documents, including public comment, related to the April 5th and May 16th D90 Board meetings. And any and all communication with staff members and parents with questions and concerns with the block schedule.

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- All emails, notes and letters from parents and guardians advising that a four period block was not the best way to teach their children.
- All surveys and polls conducted and the findings as they pertain to the block schedule.
- All internal memos, email and reports, including but not limited to memos to teachers around handling thereof, regarding increased behavior incidences amongst students, including but not limited to, walking the hall, increasing gaming use on the iPad during instructional time, phone use during instructional time and other behavior issues that relate to the 4 period block schedule.

We, the almost 100 parents on this petition and the parents here on this email are happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this email and FOIA submission. Please let us know when we can expect to receive the documents. We've prepared an email for the submissions

[d90concernedparents@gmail.com](mailto:d90concernedparents@gmail.com)

Please "reply all" with any response.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steffani Fort LeFevour