



River Forest  
Public Schools

Administration Building  
7776 Lake Street  
River Forest, IL 60305  
708-771-8282

August 3, 2023

Katy Smyser  
Senior Producer, Investigations  
NBC Chicago and Telemundo Chicago  
454 North Columbus Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Communicated via email to: [Katy.Smyser@nbcuni.com](mailto:Katy.Smyser@nbcuni.com)

Dear Ms. Smyser:

This letter is in response to your electronic *Freedom of Information Action* (FOIA) request received in my office on July 26, 2023.

**Request:** 1) *“RECORDS REQUESTED: Please provide me with documents sufficient to show all communications (emails, letters, texts, board proceedings, or notes from phone calls) received by River Forest School District 90, which include a request to reconsider, ban, and/or challenge any book or any other material in any of your school district’s libraries or classrooms. I am hoping that any existing documents will include the following:*

- 1. The date of each such request;*
- 2. The title(s) of each book(s) or other material that was requested to be pulled from your shelves or classrooms, as well as any reason stated by the requestor;*
- 3. Any response (email, letters, texts, board proceedings, or notes from phone calls) from anyone in your district, your school board, or individual school, to each request;*
- 4. The resolution of each request (i.e.: the book or material was removed completely; the book or material was partially restricted; the book or material remains on your shelves or in your classrooms; etc.).*

*Please also provide me with any documented threats that have been received by River Forest School District 90, your school board, or any of your individual schools, librarians, or teachers, via email, letters, texts, or voicemail recordings, that are related to books or other material kept in one of your libraries or classrooms. I am requesting all such material from January 1, 2013 to present.*

**Response:** There are no records responsive to this request.

As Superintendent of the District, I am responsible for granting and denying the requests for records under the Freedom of Information Act. Please be aware that this response to your request is pursuant to my understanding of your FOIA request.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Condon, Ph.D  
Superintendent

**From:** Smyser, Katherine (NBCUniversal) Katy.Smyser@nbcuni.com  
**Subject:** 7.26.2023 FOIA request from NBC Chicago  
**Date:** July 26, 2023 at 11:24 AM  
**To:** CondonE@district90.org



July 26, 2013

Dr. Edward J. Condon  
Superintendent and FOIA Officer  
River Forest School District 90  
7776 Lake Street  
River Forest, Illinois 60305-1735

Sent via email to: CondonE@district90.org

Dear Dr. Condon:

This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. I am sending this request to more than 375 public school districts in the Chicago area, including River Forest School District 90. I have also already sent this request to more than 200 Chicago-area public library systems – all for a series of stories I plan to do on book-ban-requests and other challenges to material in our local public libraries, school libraries, and school classrooms.

- Please provide me with documents sufficient to show all communications (emails, letters, texts, board proceedings, or notes from phone calls) received by River Forest School District 90, which include a request to reconsider, ban, and/or challenge any book or any other material in any of your school district's libraries or classrooms. I am hoping that any existing documents will include the following:
  1. The date of each such request;
  2. The title(s) of each book(s) or other material that was requested to be pulled from your shelves or classrooms, as well as any reason stated by the requestor;
  3. Any response (email, letters, texts, board proceedings, or notes from phone calls) from anyone in your district, your school board, or individual school, to each request;
  4. The resolution of each request (i.e.: the book or material was removed completely; the book or material was partially restricted; the book or material remains on your shelves or in your classrooms; etc.).
  
- Please also provide me with any documented threats that have been received by River Forest School District 90, your school board, or any of your individual schools, librarians or teachers, via email, letters, texts, or voicemail recordings, that are related to books or other material kept in one of your libraries or classrooms.

I am requesting all such material from January 1, 2013 to the present.

Because this request is in the public interest, I ask that you waive all fees. And if you choose to deny any part of this request, please let me know why.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, thanks – as always – for your time and attention to this request!

Katy Smyser