

January 17, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Julie Warren

**RE: RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST
CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 301**

Dear Ms. Warren:

Thank you for writing to Central Community Unit School District No. 301 (the “District”) with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois *Freedom of Information Act* (“FOIA”), 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, received on January 3, 2025. On January 10, 2025, the District notified you of the need for an extension of time. As legal counsel for the District, we are providing this response on the District’s behalf.

Your request is restated below:

“All communications, regardless of format (email, text message, phone note, etc.) from November 25, 2024 up to and including December 18, 2024 between Esther Mongan and any board member(s). as well as any individual board members between themselves related to the resignation of Jeff Gorman either as D301 Board President or from the D301 Board entirely.”

Your request is granted in part and denied in part. See enclosed documentation. Pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(m), we removed communications between the District and attorneys representing the District that are covered by the attorney-client privilege or attorney work product. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m). In addition, we removed communications based on FOIA’s exemption for preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda, and other records or information in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f). This exemption protects predecisional, deliberative communications that inform an agency’s decision-making process. *Harwood v. McDonough*, 344 Ill.App.3d 242, 248 (1st Dist. 2003). Finally, we redacted a personal email address and the identity of a private citizen who contacted the District to express an opinion pursuant to FOIA Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b), 7(1)(c); see *Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood Safety v. City of Chicago*, 348 Ill. App. 3d 188, 209, 211 (1st Dist. 2004) (“[T]he core purpose of the FOIA is to expose what the government is doing, not what its private citizens are up to.”).

Ms. Julie Warren
January 17, 2025

You have a right to have the District's FOIA response reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
Email: public.access@ilag.gov

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 days of the date of this letter. 5 ILCS 140/9/5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of any denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

As the District's legal counsel, I am responsible for the District's response to this FOIA request, in consultation with the District's FOIA Officer and Superintendent. If we have misunderstood your requests in any way, please contact the District in writing.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Richart

Encl.

cc: Dr. Esther Mongan, Superintendent
Grady Engle, Director of Grants/FOIA Officer

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