



Lori Rupsch &lt;lrupsch@d56.org&gt;

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**Fwd: FOIA Request for emails and memos**

2 messages

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**Luis Correa** <lcorrea@d56.org>  
To: Lori Rupsch <lrupsch@d56.org>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 10:01 AM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: <foia@lakecountygazette.com>  
Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 9:35 AM  
Subject: FOIA Request for emails and memos  
To: <lcorrea@d56.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am a news reporter from Lake County Gazette, a media organization committed to providing comprehensive and accurate news coverage on local governmental affairs. I am requesting the following records under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, preferably in electronic format:

Copy or all emails and memos from the past 12 months that contain the following keywords:

"Lucy Calkins"

"Units of Study"

As a member of the media, I am involved in gathering and reporting news to the public. Access to public records is essential for me to fulfill my professional responsibilities, which include holding public institutions accountable and providing transparency to the public. Given my role in disseminating information, I believe I am eligible for a fee waiver as a media professional.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Owen Wang,

Lake County Gazette

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**Lori Rupsch** <lrupsch@d56.org>  
To: foia@lakecountygazette.com

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 2:53 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

On January 28, 2025, Gurnee School District 56 received an email from an "Owen Wang" containing a FOIA request purportedly on behalf of your organization requesting copies of emails and memos from the past 12 months that contain the key words "Lucy Calkins" or "Units of Study".

The District has received reports that no such person exists and that the FOIA request is AI-generated. FOIA only requires the District to respond to requests from a "person" as defined under the statute. Please verify whether Owen Wang works with your company, whether this request originated from your company and, if so, provide a more secure email address for the District's response. Upon receiving your response to this inquiry, we will provide a further FOIA response within the required timeline, starting from the receipt of your response, subject to all applicable fees. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, we will consider your request abandoned.

Next, please explain why you are claiming to be “news media” as your website contains no attributed articles or apparent journalistic original content. See 2016 PAC 44649, at 5 (“Neither website contains original content or credits particular authors with any material posted on them. Given the absence of features such as editorial oversight and original content, the websites do not resemble a ‘newspaper,’ ‘periodical’ or ‘news service’ in an electronic form.”). Finally, since your website does not appear to qualify as news media, kindly acknowledge that your request is being made for a “commercial purpose.” For your reference, FOIA defines “Commercial purpose” broadly to include “the use of any part of a public record or records, or information derived from public records, in any form for sale, resale, or solicitation or advertisement for sales or services.” 5 ILCS 140/2(c-10). Please be advised that it is a violation of FOIA for a person to knowingly obtain a public record for a commercial purpose without disclosing that it is for a commercial purpose, if requested to do so by the public body. See 5 ILCS 140/3.1(c).

Upon receiving your response to these inquiries, we will provide further FOIA response(s) within the applicable timeline (21 working days for commercial requests). We will consider all FOIA deadlines to be tolled and to start over after your response to our inquiries. Until we receive full responses to our inquiries, the District will not proceed to provide any substantive FOIA responses or further communications in regards to any requests from “Owen Wang” or any alleged others on behalf of your organization. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

**LORI RUPSCH**

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
and Board of Education  
Gurnee School District 56  
Phone: 847-336-0800



PORTRAIT  
OF A  
GRADUATE

@GurneeD56 @District56 @GurneeDistrict56 @D56StreamingVideo

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