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Pleasantdale Middle School
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February 12, 2026

Michael F. Henry
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This correspondence is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request received by the School District on February 5, 2026.

You requested the following records:

- From 2019 thru the present please provide 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.

Please be advised that, under FOIA, Pleasantdale School District 107 is not required to create any documents in response to a FOIA request, nor is it required to respond to interrogatory style questions. A FOIA request must reasonably identify a public record that exists, rather than seek statistics or data through generalized questions. *See Chicago Tribune Co. v. Board of Educ. of City of Chicago*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, ¶ 33. FOIA does not require a public body to answer “general inquiry questions” or respond to an interrogatory-like request. *Hites*, 2016 IL App (2d) at ¶ 75. Moreover, FOIA does not require a public body to create or generate a new record that is responsive to a request. *See Chicago Tribune Co. v. Board of Educ. of City of Chicago*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427 ¶ 33; *Hites v. Waubensee Community College*, 2016 IL App (2d) 150836 ¶ 74-76. Therefore, items in your request which were fashioned as interrogatories or general inquiries and failed to identify any record, did not generate any responsive records during the district’s search.

Moreover, after a review of its records, the School District has determined that it has no records meeting the description of your request. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9 does not require Board of Education members to undergo a background check. Regardless, any records which would be responsive would be exempt under the following exemptions:

5 ILCS 140/7(1)(a-5) – Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or state law. Notably, the Illinois *School Code* provides that background check results shall remain confidential. (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9). Therefore, these items are exempt from disclosure and are not being provided.

5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) - Personal information contained within the public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

In the event your request has been denied by a District Freedom of Information Officer, you may appeal this decision to the Illinois Attorney General -Public Access Counselor, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, (877) 299-3642 [public.access@ilag.gov]. You may also appeal this decision by filing suit for injunctive relief in the circuit court.

Respectfully,

Griffin Sonntag

Pleasantdale School District 107 FOIA Officer