

Decatur Public School District #61
101 West Cerro Gordo Street
Decatur IL 62523 – 217.362.3011

Melissa Bradford
Freedom of Information Officer

June 08, 2023

Reed Sutman
Phone: 217 413-9202
Email: reed@decaturvote.com

Dear Mr. Sutman,

I am in receipt of your Freedom of Information Request (FOIA), which was emailed by you and received by me on Thursday, June 01, 2023. Decatur Public School's response is due Thursday, June 08, 2023. The FOIA request asked for the following:

Subject: Re: FOIA Request - Correction: This is not a commercial request. I just spoke with the At Gen's public access counselor's office and was told that media companies making requests for public release & news pieces are not considered "commercial requests". I had misunderstood. Thanks.

A recent Herald & Review article about Dennis School states:

"District spokeswoman Denise Swarhout said the district had contacted a structural engineer in the spring to look at the buildings, both because the district already knew there were issues and because administrators and staff had voiced concerns, but Tuesday was the first opening in that engineer's schedule to examine the buildings."

I'd like a copy of all communications and documents regarding the issues with the buildings. These should include:

1. Any documented finding that the district "already knew there were issues"
 - a. **Response: There is no document responsive to this request.**
2. Any communications from administrators and staff voicing their concerns.
 - a. **Response: See the attached document titled, "Communication between Admins and Others."**
3. Any communications with engineers / engineering firms to schedule an examination, including the engineer who did the assessment and any others that were sought.
 - a. **Response: There is no document responsive to this request.**
4. Any documentation showing that the engineer's first opening was Tuesday.
 - a. **Response: See the attached document titled, "Communication between Admins and Others."**
5. Any prior assessments of the buildings' structural stability.
 - a. **Response: There is no document responsive to this request.**
6. The full content of any communications (including FOIA requests) with Herald & Review, WAND, or other media organization or the public about this.

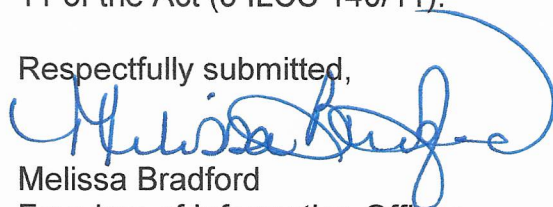
a. Response: See the attached document titled, "Communications with Media and Emailed FOIA V. Wells 06.07.23."

This response is intended to comply with your request. Should you feel that the District has misinterpreted your request, or should you wish to clarify your request, please contact the District, in writing, so that it may respond accordingly. Additionally, you are hereby notified, pursuant to Section 9 of the Act (5 ILCS 140/9), of your right to review by the Public Access Counselor:

Ms. Leah Bartelt Public Access Counselor Office of the Attorney General 500 S. 2nd Street Springfield, Illinois 62701	Phone: 1-877-299-FOIA (1-877-299-3642) Fax: (217) 782-1396 Email: public.access@ilag.gov
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You are further notified that you have the right to judicial review as provided in Section 11 of the Act (5 ILCS 140/11).

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Bradford
Freedom of Information Officer

cc: Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent
Attorney
File