

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] DPS61 Violating Section 5 of FOIA

From: reed@decaturnvote.com

Date: 7/21/23, 11:31

To: Ethics <ethics.OEIG@ilag.gov>

Okay, thank you. Sorry about my confusion.

On 7/21/23 10:46 AM, Ethics <ethics.OEIG@ilag.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Sutman:

Thank you for your inquiry to the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. Please note, we are a separate agency from the Office of the Attorney General and are authorized to investigate allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct relating to employees of the Attorney General's Office only. As such we have no jurisdiction over this matter.

You may contact the Attorney General's Office about your concerns at <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Contact/> and find helpful information about the Public Access Bureau at <https://foiapac.ilag.gov/>.

Best regards,
Office of Executive Inspector General
for the Office of the Illinois Attorney General

-----Original Message-----

From: Reed Sutman <reed@decaturnvote.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Ethics <ethics.OEIG@ilag.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DPS61 Violating Section 5 of FOIA

Hello,

I believe Decatur Public Schools District 61 is in violation of Section 5 of FOIA (see [https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=85_!!Fvegm0ykMBmc!Jspd2z6imK4FeExu--qt7ZhTz34UuNhGb3YH-s8SCjcJvqDdRhy_Xa-j7zcr8R3Smw0bkjot1NaR1tJQzwY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=85_!!Fvegm0ykMBmc!Jspd2z6imK4FeExu--qt7ZhTz34UuNhGb3YH-s8SCjcJvqDdRhy_Xa-j7zcr8R3Smw0bkjot1NaR1tJQzwY$)), and I would like assistance obtaining the list discussed in Section 5.

On June 23rd, I emailed Board Secretary Melissa Bradford asking for the list detailed in Section 5. Later, also on June 23rd, I submitted a FOIA request and included a footnote that I was seeking that list.

I spoke with the Public Access Counselor's office and understand their office is not responsible for enforcing Section 5 of FOIA, though in a Request for Review I made last Friday, I did ask for their guidance on this issue. I have not yet received a reply.

On July 11th, I sent an email to Bradford, Superintendent Dr. Rochelle Clark, and all 7 board members, seeking this list referenced in Section 5. I also spoke publicly at a Board of Education Meeting, addressing that Section 5 was not being followed.

On July 13th, I emailed Luke Feeney and David Braun (see millertracy.com), attorneys for DPS61, and I CC'd Bradford. I was, again, seeking this same list. Luke responded "Received. We are not authorized to speak on behalf of the District on this matter."

I'm happy to provide all relevant email records.

Please let me know if you are able to assist, or if not, please let me know what I can do to get DPS61 to comply with the law (assuming I've understood the law correctly). I assume I could file a lawsuit, but expect this would be timely and cumbersome, and would prefer not to do that.

Thank you,
Reed Sutman

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Reed Sutman
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