

Gail F. Buscemi
Business Manager

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Mikaelian Education Center

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February 22, 2018

Ms. Kaylin Rhoads
1640 Hunters Glen Court
Wheaton, Illinois 600189
k.rhoads@threepoint-consulting.com

Dear Ms. Rhoads:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 20, 2018. Your request was that the following information be provided:

2017-18 Teacher Salary Schedule for Wilmette Public
Schools District 39

District 39 has not used a teacher salary schedule since the beginning of the 2013-2016 Wilmette Education Association contract, therefore we have no records responsive to your request. However, our current teachers' contract is available on the District's website and may be of interest to you. [Wilmette Education Association contract](#)

If you have any questions regarding our response to your request, please contact me at Wilmette Public Schools, District 39, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Sincerely,

Gail F. Buscemi
FOIA Request Officer

February 20, 2017

Gail Buscemi
Freedom of Information Officer
Wilmette Public Schools District 39
615 Locust Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
Sent electronically: buscemig@wilmette39.org

Re: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Buscemi,

Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records for:

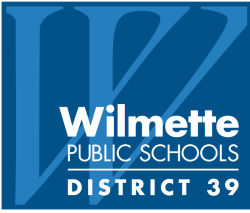
- 2017-18 Teacher Salary Schedule for Wilmette Public Schools District 39.

I understand that the Act permits a public body to charge a reasonable copying fee not to exceed the actual cost of reproduction and not including the costs of any search or review of the records. 5 ILCS 140/6.

I look forward to hearing from you in writing within five working days, as required by the Act 5 ILCS 140(3). Thank you for considering and responding to this request.

Sincerely,

Kaylin Rhoads
1640 Hunters Glen Ct.
Wheaton, IL 60189
(630) 456-8234
k.rhoads@threepoint-consulting.com



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February 5, 2018

Paul Traynor
paultraynor@haymoon.com

**RE: RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST
INVITATION TO NARROW REQUESTS**

Dear Mr. Traynor:

Thank you for writing to Wilmette Public Schools District No. 39 with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois *Freedom of Information Act* (“FOIA”), 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, received on January 29, 2018.

You requested the following:

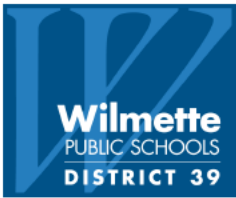
“1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I’d also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

2) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I’d also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

3) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I’d also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

4) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I’d also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

5) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as



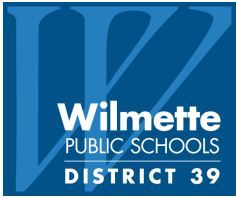
relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

6) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

7) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.

8) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.”

As currently written, your request is denied. FOIA does not generally require the District to release the identities of private citizens who choose to express their personal opinions to the District or who may request documents from the District, as the release of such information may “constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 ILCS 140/7(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.”). In addition, correspondence with individual parents frequently reflects individually identifiable student information, which is prohibited from disclosure under the *Illinois School Student Records Act*, 105 ILCS 10/1 et seq.; the federal *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act*, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; and their implementing rules and regulations. This information is therefore exempt and must be carefully redacted prior to release under FOIA Sections 7(1)(a), 7(1)(c) and 7.5(r). Finally, based on the District’s initial e mail search attempts, there appear to be a large number of potentially responsive e mails over the two year period you have requested, and we believe it would take an excessive amount of staff and/or attorney time to collect, analyze, review and redact all of these responsive materials in order to comply with your requests as currently written. The District believes the burdens of your requests as written likely outweigh any public interest in the information, and we must therefore invite you to narrow and reframe your requests pursuant to FOIA Section 3(g). Specifically, we invite you to focus your request on a shorter time period and to seek correspondence to or from any member of the public concerning a particular subject or subjects, rather than targeting specific parents. The District would then release the substance of



the communications and the concerns discussed, but would redact the identities of the senders. *See Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood Safety*, 348 Ill. App. 3d at 211.

If you narrow and reframe your requests to a manageable scope, we will provide a response within the applicable FOIA timeframe starting from our receipt of your amended request. If you wish to discuss your options for reducing the requests, please feel free to call or e mail me. If you do not wish to do so, the requests will be deemed “unduly burdensome” within the meaning of FOIA Section 3(g).

You have a right to have the District’s 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: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

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 requests 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 FOIA Officer, I am responsible for the District’s response to your requests, in consultation with the District’s Superintendent. If I have misunderstood your requests in any way, please clarify your requests in writing to me.

Sincerely,

Gail F. Buscemi
FOIA Request Officer

From: Paul Traynor <paultraynor@haymoon.com>
Subject: FOIA Requests
Date: January 29, 2018 at 12:06:18 PM CST
To: "Dr. Ray Lechner" <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Cc: Paul Traynor <paultraynor@haymoon.com>

Hi Dr. Lechner—

Hope you had a great weekend. I'm sorry to tax the district's focus and resources, but I need to make the following requests under the Freedom of Information Act:

- 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff— particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti-bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.
- 2) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff— particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti-bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.
- 3) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff— particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti-bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.
- 4) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff— particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti-bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.
- 5) 1) All correspondence over the last two years between [REDACTED] and D39 board members, administrators and staff— particularly as relates to school funding levies or district taxes, and any suggested or enacted programs regarding racial sensitivity training, anti-bullying measures, empathy training, or any suggested policy relating to LGBTQ issues. I'd also like information on any FOIA requests the District has conducted at [REDACTED] request.
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Thanks very much for your attention to this matter, and my apologies for any inconvenience. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Paul Traynor
Hay Moon Media
(224) 522-2242

Connect with us at AFM 2017:
www.haymoonmedia.com