



Saddle River School District - Wandell School
97 East Allendale Road, Saddle River, NJ 07458
201.327.0727 www.wandellschool.org Fax: 201.236.8166



December 14, 2023

VIA E-MAIL [opra+request-55828-da7e3c84@requests.opramachine]

Brian Hampel

Re: Open Public Records Act/Common Law Request

Dear Mr. Hampel:

The Saddle River School District (“District”) records custodian received your Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”) and common law request (“Request”) on December 5, 2023. The seven business day deadline to respond to your Request is December 14, 2023. As such, the District is timely responding to your Request in accordance with New Jersey law.

Your Request seeks the following records:

All attorney bills & invoices pertaining to legal services provided to the Saddle River Board of Education. The time frame for the requested documents is from June 1, 2023, through and including the entire month of November, 2023.

Common Law: Under common law, I seek access to the requested documents to ensure transparency and accountability in the spending of public funds by the Saddle River School District. This request is grounded in the fundamental public right to access governmental records, which promotes accountability and transparency in public entities. By scrutinizing the financial expenditures on legal services, stakeholders such as taxpayers and community members can better understand how public funds are being allocated and managed.

- (1) To the extent that any such records contain personally identifiable information related to any individual student, please redact that personally identifiable information prior to disclosure.
- (2) To the extent that any such records are exempted from disclosure under OPRA, and also unavailable under the common law right of access, please provide a complete Vaughn index of all such records, disclosing “sufficient detail to prove the requestor ‘with as much information as possible to use in presenting his case’ and to enable the ‘decision-maker’s review of governmental records to determine whether they contain privileged material.’” Paff v. Division of Law, 412 N.J. Super. 140, 161 (App. Div. 2010).



Saddle River School District - Wandell School
97 East Allendale Road, Saddle River, NJ 07458
201.327.0727 www.wandellschool.org Fax: 201.236.8166



OPRA allows the records custodian to seek extensions of time pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5i. In light of the voluminous nature of your request, the District requires an additional 30 days (until January 12, 2024) to compile, review, and produce the potentially responsive records in accordance with New Jersey law. The District also reserves the right to request an additional extension of time if necessary. See Scheeler v. New Jersey Department of Educ., GRC Complaint No. 2014-123 (2016).

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Lawler
Board Secretary