

WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY
PO Box 1199
Wall, New Jersey 07719-1199

Brian J. Smyth
Custodian of Records

Phone: 732-556-2016
FAX: 732-556-2102

January 31, 2024

Betsy Cross
Re: OPRA 24-060

opra+request-57869-7ce4663e@requests.opramachine.com

Dear Ms. Cross,

The Wall Township Board of Education is in receipt of your emailed request for records dated January 31, 2024, wherein you requested records as follows:

“Immediate Access:...

May I please have a copy of the December 2023 attorney bills for Cornell, Merlino, McKeever and Osborne.”

In response to your request for attorney bills from Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne for legal services rendered in December 2023, attached are documents responsive to your request consisting of 12 pages.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Wall Township Board of Education to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (GRC) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ 08625, be-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Smyth
Custodian of Records

BJS/dc

Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC

238 St. Paul Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-481-5000
Fax: 908-264-2045
Email: edlawgroup@cmmolaw.com

Invoice # 20072
Date: 12/31/2023

BUSINESS OFFICE

JAN 23 2024

RECEIVED

Wall Township Board of Education
1620 18th Avenue
Wall, New Jersey 07719

Statement of Account

Outstanding Balance	New Charges	Payments Received	Total Amount Outstanding
(\$0.00	+ \$5,890.50	) - (\$0.00	) = \$5,890.50

00992-Wall Township Board of Education

General

Date	Description	Hours	Amount
12/01/2023	Receipt and review of email from E. Scanlon, Esq. In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.20	\$33.00
12/01/2023	Research, preparation, and drafting of email to N. Benis, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from N. Benis, Esq.; Review revised Agreement In Re: Student Matter	0.55	\$90.75
12/01/2023	Review correspondence and exhibits In Re: Data Request	0.40	\$66.00
12/01/2023	Receipt and review of email from E. Harrison, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to E. Harrison, Esq. In Re: Legal Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/04/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachments from Office of the Superintendent; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to Office of the Superintendent In Re: HIB	0.50	\$82.50
12/04/2023	Research, preparation, and drafting of email to N. Benis, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from N. Benis, Esq.; Telephone conference with N. Benis, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.60	\$99.00
12/04/2023	Receipt and review of email from Prosecutor's Office; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to Prosecutor's Office In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/04/2023	Receipt and review of email from B. Foster, Qual-Lynx In Re: Legal Matter	0.20	\$33.00
12/04/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: Data Request	1.30	\$214.50
12/05/2023	Receipt and review of email from N. Benis, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to	0.35	\$57.75

	N. Benis, Esq. In Re: Student Matter		
12/05/2023	Receipt and review of email from Prosecutor's Office; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to Prosecutor's Office; Telephone conference with Office of the Superintendent In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/05/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Subcontracting	0.25	\$41.25
12/05/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from Business Office In Re: Pending Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/05/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: HIB Appeal	0.80	\$132.00
12/06/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from N. Benis, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to N. Benis, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/06/2023	Review of Consent and EPA Website; Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to B. Smyth In Re: Consent	0.40	\$66.00
12/06/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from Prosecutor's Office; Telephone conference with Prosecutor's Office, Dr. Handerhan, and B. Smyth In Re: Pending Legal Matter	1.20	\$198.00
12/06/2023	Receipt and review of correspondence from Office of the Superintendent; Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file; Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence In Re: HIB Appeal	1.00	\$165.00
12/07/2023	Research, preparation and attendance at Mediation; Receipt and review of email and attachment from Prosecutor's Office In Re: Pending Legal Matter	2.75	\$453.75
12/08/2023	Receipt and review of email from N. Benis, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to N. Benis, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.20	\$33.00
12/08/2023	Receipt and review of email from E. Scanlon, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to T. O'Grady, Esq. In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.20	\$33.00
12/11/2023	Telephone conference with E. Harrison, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from E. Harrison, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to E. Harrison, Esq.; Telephone conference with B. Smyth In Re: Legal Matter	0.50	\$82.50
12/12/2023	Telephone conference with B. Smyth In Re: Legal Matter	0.10	\$16.50
12/12/2023	Receipt and review of email from T. O'Grady, Esq. In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.10	\$16.50
12/13/2023	Telephone conference with T. O'Grady, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to T. O'Grady, Esq. In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/13/2023	Telephone conference with E. Monafis; Telephone conference with B. Smyth	0.30	\$49.50

	In Re: Legal Matter		
12/13/2023	Telephone conference with C. Steitz In Re: Board Matter	0.90	\$148.50
12/13/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: HIB Matter	0.30	\$49.50
12/14/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from E. Harrison, Esq. In Re: Legal Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/14/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachments from T. O'Grady, Esq.; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.90	\$148.50
12/15/2023	Telephone conference with T. O'Grady, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from T. O'Grady, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to T. O'Grady, Esq., and Insurance Adjuster In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/15/2023	Telephone conference with B. Smyth; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Legal Matters	0.50	\$82.50
12/18/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review of documentation In Re: Legal Matter	0.80	\$132.00
12/18/2023	Receipt and review of email from J. Payor, Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. In Re: Audit Request	0.20	\$33.00
12/19/2023	Research, preparation and drafting of correspondences to C. Klein; Receipt and review of correspondences from C. Klein In Re: Legal Matters	0.55	\$90.75
12/19/2023	Telephone conference with Dr. Handerhan and T. Steiner In Re: Pending Matters/504 Compliance	2.00	\$330.00
12/19/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Student Health Plan	0.20	\$33.00
12/19/2023	Research, preparation and attendance at Board Meeting; Preparation for executive session	4.35	\$717.75
12/19/2023	Research, preparation, and drafting of email to J. Payor, Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. In Re: Audit Response	0.10	\$16.50
12/19/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: Nurse Inquiry	0.40	\$66.00
12/19/2023	Receipt and review of email from B. Smyth; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: HIB	0.40	\$66.00
12/19/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachments from T. Steiner In Re: Student Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/19/2023	Telephone conference with Dr. Handerhan In Re: Pending Matter	0.50	\$82.50
12/20/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from Business Office In Re: Board Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/20/2023	Receipt and review of email from E. Harrison, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from B. Smyth; Telephone conference with E. Harrison, Esq. In Re: Legal Matter	0.55	\$90.75

12/20/2023	Receipt and review of email from T. O'Grady, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to T. O'Grady, Esq. In Re: Legal Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/20/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from J. Payor; Telephone conference with J. Payor In Re: Audit Request	0.20	\$33.00
12/20/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file; Receipt and review of correspondence from T. Steiner In Re: HIB Inquiry	1.00	\$165.00
12/20/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: 504 Coordinator	1.20	\$198.00
12/21/2023	Receipt and review of email from T. Steiner; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to T. Steiner; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: HIB	0.75	\$123.75
12/21/2023	Receipt of email from N. Benis, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.20	\$33.00
12/21/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: 504 Coordinator	0.30	\$49.50
12/22/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from E. Harrison, Esq.; Receipt and review of email and attachment from A. Nasr; Office research; preparation and review of file In Re: Pending Legal Matter	1.20	\$198.00
12/22/2023	Receipt and review of correspondences from T. Steiner; Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file; Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to T. Steiner In Re: HIB Inquiry	0.50	\$82.50
12/22/2023	Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to T. Steiner; Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: 504 Coordinator	0.40	\$66.00
12/26/2023	Receipt and review of email from Prosecutor's Office; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to Prosecutor's Office; Receipt and review of email and attachment from T. O'Grady, Esq. In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.60	\$99.00
12/28/2023	Receipt and review of email from N. Benis, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to N. Benis, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/28/2023	Telephone conference with C. Steitz In Re: Pending Matter	0.40	\$66.00
Quantity Subtotal		35.7	
Quantity Total		35.7	
Subtotal			\$5,890.50
Amount			\$5,890.50

Detailed Statement of Account

Current Invoice

Invoice Number	Due On	Amount Due	Payments Received	Balance Due
20072	01/30/2024	\$5,890.50	\$0.00	\$5,890.50
Outstanding Balance				\$5,890.50
Total Amount Outstanding				\$5,890.50

Tax ID: 47-2275513

Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC

238 St. Paul Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-481-5000
Fax: 908-264-2045
Email: edlawgroup@cmmolaw.com

Invoice # 20073
Date: 12/31/2023

BUSINESS OFFICE

JAN 23 2024

RECEIVED

Wall Township Board of Education
1620 18th Avenue
Wall, New Jersey 07719

Statement of Account

Outstanding Balance	New Charges	Payments Received	Total Amount Outstanding
(\$0.00	+ \$536.25	) - (\$0.00	) = \$536.25

01004-Wall Township Board of Education

OPRA

Date	Description	Hours	Amount
12/08/2023	Receipt and review of correspondence from C. Klein In Re: OPRA Request	0.25	\$41.25
12/15/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: OPRA	0.60	\$99.00
12/18/2023	Research, preparation and drafting of email to B. Smyth; Receipt and review of email from B. Smyth In Re: OPRA	0.20	\$33.00
12/19/2023	Receipt and review of correspondence from C. Klein; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: OPRA Request	0.75	\$123.75
12/19/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from A. Nasr In Re: OPRA	0.50	\$82.50
12/20/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: OPRA	0.30	\$49.50
12/21/2023	Receipt and review of correspondence from B. Smyth; Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: OPRA Request	0.40	\$66.00
12/22/2023	Receipt and review of correspondence from A. Nasr In Re: OPRA Request	0.25	\$41.25
Quantity Subtotal			3.25
Quantity Total			3.25
Subtotal			\$536.25

Amount \$536.25

Detailed Statement of Account

Current Invoice

Invoice Number	Due On	Amount Due	Payments Received	Balance Due
20073	01/30/2024	\$536.25	\$0.00	\$536.25
Outstanding Balance				\$536.25
Total Amount Outstanding				\$536.25

Tax ID: 47-2275513

Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC

238 St. Paul Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-481-5000
Fax: 908-264-2045
Email: edlawgroup@cmmolaw.com

Invoice # 20074
Date: 12/31/2023

BUSINESS OFFICE

JAN 23 2024

RECEIVED

Wall Township Board of Education
1620 18th Avenue
Wall, New Jersey 07719

Statement of Account

Outstanding Balance	New Charges	Payments Received	Total Amount Outstanding
(\$0.00	+ \$4,908.75	) - (\$0.00	) = \$4,908.75

01005-Wall Township Board of Education

Personnel/Labor

Date	Description	Hours	Amount
12/01/2023	Telephone conference with Dr. Handerhan In Re: Personnel	0.45	\$74.25
12/06/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Personnel Grievance	0.40	\$66.00
12/06/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from Prosecutor's Office In Re: Legal Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/06/2023	Research, preparation and attendance at Personnel Committee Meeting	0.50	\$82.50
12/07/2023	Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to M. Scarano; Receipt and review of correspondence from M. Scarano In Re: Personnel Grievance	0.35	\$57.75
12/07/2023	Telephone conference with B. Smyth In Re: Personnel	0.45	\$74.25
12/08/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Receipt and review of correspondence from Association; Receipt and review of email from M. Scarano In Re: Personnel Grievance	0.50	\$82.50
12/11/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing In Re: Personnel	1.50	\$247.50
12/12/2023	Telephone conference with M. Scarano In Re: Personnel Matters	0.50	\$82.50
12/13/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing In Re: Personnel Grievance	0.75	\$123.75
12/13/2023	Telephone conference with Dr. Handerhan In Re: Legal Matter; Personnel Matter	0.50	\$82.50

12/14/2023	Receipt and review of email from B. Smyth; Receipt and review of email from Prosecutor's Office; Telephone conference with B. Smyth; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to Prosecutor's Office In Re: Legal Matter	0.45	\$74.25
12/18/2023	Receipt and review of email from R. Schwartz, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to R. Schwartz, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to M. Scarano; Receipt and review of email from M. Scarano In Re: Legal Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/18/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: Personnel Inquiry	0.70	\$115.50
12/19/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Review and follow up of file In Re: Personnel Inquiry	0.30	\$49.50
12/19/2023	Research, preparation, and drafting of email to Prosecutor's Office; Receipt and review of email from Prosecutor's Office In Re: Legal Matter	0.25	\$41.25
12/20/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing In Re: Personnel Grievance	0.50	\$82.50
12/21/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing; Research, preparation and drafting of emails to witnesses; Receipt and review of emails from witnesses; Research, preparation and drafting of email to T. Ridoux; Receipt and review of email from T. Ridoux; Receipt and review of correspondence from B. Smyth In Re: Personnel Grievance	2.15	\$354.75
12/21/2023	Receipt and review of correspondence from M. Scarano; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Personnel Matters	0.50	\$82.50
12/22/2023	Receipt and review of email, with attachment from M. Scarano; Receipt and review of document; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Personnel Grievance	1.10	\$181.50
12/26/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from M. Jacobs, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to M. Jacobs, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from Prosecutor's Office In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.50	\$82.50
12/26/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing; Research, preparation and drafting of Memorandum In Re: Personnel Grievance Arbitration	7.75	\$1,278.75
12/27/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing; Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to J. Darby, Arbitrator In Re: Personnel Grievance Arbitration	4.75	\$783.75
12/27/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from M. Jacobs, Esq. In Re: Pending Legal Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/28/2023	Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to C. Smeltzer, Esq.; Receipt and review of correspondence from C. Smeltzer, Esq.; Research, preparation and drafting of correspondence to J. Darby, Arbitrator In Re: Personnel Grievance Arbitration	1.00	\$165.00
12/29/2023	Office research, preparation and review of file; Preparation for Hearing In Re: Personnel Grievance Arbitration	2.75	\$453.75
Quantity Subtotal			29.75

Quantity Total	29.75
Subtotal	\$4,908.75
Amount	\$4,908.75

Detailed Statement of Account

Current Invoice

Invoice Number	Due On	Amount Due	Payments Received	Balance Due
20074	01/30/2024	\$4,908.75	\$0.00	\$4,908.75
Outstanding Balance				\$4,908.75
Total Amount Outstanding				\$4,908.75

Tax ID: 47-2275513

Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC

238 St. Paul Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-481-5000
Fax: 908-264-2045
Email: edlawgroup@cmmolaw.com

Invoice # 20075
Date: 12/31/2023

BUSINESS OFFICE

JAN 23 2024

RECEIVED

Wall Township Board of Education
1620 18th Avenue
Wall, New Jersey 07719

Statement of Account

Outstanding Balance	New Charges	Payments Received	Total Amount Outstanding
(\$0.00	+ \$577.50	) - (\$0.00	) = \$577.50

01007-Wall Township Board of Education

Special Education

Date	Description	Hours	Amount
12/04/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachments from G. Pettineo, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to G. Pettineo, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from B. Smyth In Re: Student Matter	0.45	\$74.25
12/11/2023	Receipt and review of email from K. Bond; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to K. Bond; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to G. Pettineo, Esq.; Receipt and review of email from G. Pettineo, Esq.; Research, preparation, and drafting of email to K. Bond and B. Smyth; Receipt and review of email from B. Smyth In Re: Student Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/13/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from G. Pettineo, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.35	\$57.75
12/13/2023	Receipt and review of email and attachment from Business Office In Re: Student Matter	0.40	\$66.00
12/14/2023	Research, preparation and attendance at meeting with K. Bond, Dr. Handerhan, B. Smyth and G. Pettineo, Esq. In Re: Student Matter	0.50	\$82.50
12/14/2023	Research, preparation and attendance at meeting with Dr. Handerhan and K. Bond In Re: Pending Matters	0.30	\$49.50
12/15/2023	Telephone conference with K. Bond In Re: Student Matters	0.50	\$82.50
12/20/2023	Telephone conferences with K. Bond; Office research, preparation and review of file In Re: Pending Matters	0.60	\$99.00
Quantity Subtotal			3.5
Quantity Total			3.5

Subtotal	\$577.50
Amount	\$577.50

Detailed Statement of Account

Current Invoice

Invoice Number	Due On	Amount Due	Payments Received	Balance Due
20075	01/30/2024	\$577.50	\$0.00	\$577.50
Outstanding Balance				\$577.50
Total Amount Outstanding				\$577.50

Tax ID: 47-2275513