

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 12, 2026

Anonymous

Re: OPRA 26-033

opra+request-84819-4ac139ae@requests.opramachine.com

This response is being provided on the 5th business day of the Custodian of Record's receipt of request.

Good afternoon,

The Wall Township Board of Education is in receipt of your emailed request and certification of Friday, December 31, 2025, at 2:05 PM wherein you requested records as follows:

“Records requested:

I would like the Cease and Desist letter drafted by Athina Cornell to Betsy Cross in December of 2024.”

In response to your request attached please find correspondence from Board Counsel, Athina Cornell of Methfessel & Werbel dated December 20, 2024, consisting of 4 pages. Personal information has been redacted in accordance with the privacy interest exception to OPRA (NJSA 47:1A-1).

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



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A Professional Corporation

JOEL N. WERBEL>
JOHN METHFESSEL, JR.>
FREDRIC PAUL GALLIN*+^
WILLIAM S. BLOOM*>
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JEFFREY R. MERLINO+
JENNIFER A. OSBORNE+
ANDREW J. GIBBS>

Of Counsel
STEPHEN R. KATZMAN#
ED THORNTON>
MICHAEL TRIFOLIS
BETH A. BOLGER+
PAUL E. GRIGGS>

Retired
JOHN METHFESSEL, SR.>
(1935-2017)
DON CROWLEY*+
(1942-2024)
MARC DEMBLING*+
(1944-2022)

Counsel
STEPHEN G. BRENNER+^
ADAM M. CARMAN+^
SHAJI M. EAPEN+
JOSEPH C. FALK>
ANGELA M. GURRERA>
GERALD KAPLAN>
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RICHARD A. NELKE~
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STEVEN A. UNTERBURGER+

Associates
JILLIAN T. CLARK>
EDWARD D. DEMBLING>
KARISHMA DHURUVE>
MICHAEL R. EATROFF>
FRANK J. KEENAN+^
SCOTT KETTERER>

Associates, Cont'd
ALLISON M. KOENKE>
JOHN M. MARTIN>
ANTHONY J. MANCUSO>
KAJAL J. PATEL+
ADAM M. SCHWARTZ+
VITTORIA A. SCULCO>
SARAH E. SHEPP+
ALYCIA M. SWIFT+
TIFFANY D. TAGARELLI>

* Certified by the Supreme Court of
New Jersey as a Civil Trial Attorney
+Member of NY & NJ Bar
^Member of PA & NJ Bar
^Member of NY Bar only
>Member of NJ Bar only
#Member of NJ & LA. Bar
<Member of NJ & DC Bar
≤Member of NJ, NY & CA Bar
≥Member of NJ, PA & DC Bar
~Member of NY, NJ & DC Bar
=Member of NY, NJ & MA Bar

Please reply to New Jersey

December 20, 2024

Via Electronic Mail, Certified Mail, RRR and Regular Mail

Ms. Betsy Cross

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: WALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION (Board/District)

Our File No. : 95207 ALC

Dear Ms. Cross:

As you are aware, this office represents the Wall Township Board of Education. This is a memorialization of the cease and desist notice that you received verbally at the Wall Township Board of Education business meeting on December 17, 2024. Your continued pattern of harassing and threatening conduct is disturbing and must immediately cease.

As discussed at the Board's business meeting, the Board is in receipt of your Facebook post (enclosed). It is our understanding that this post was made the day after the well-publicized murder of Brian Thompson who was killed in broad daylight. The killer inscribed the words "Delay Deny Depose" on the bullets used in the murder and this has become a mantra associated with the killing. You mimicked this mantra "Delay, Deny, Defend" in your post, targeting both Brian Smyth as well as the members of the Board of Education. As explained, this constitutes a threat not only against Mr. Smyth but against the school community as a whole. Your conduct is reprehensible and will not be tolerated. The Board takes this safety and security concern very seriously will not sit idly by while

you terrorize its employees and school community. As discussed at last night's meeting, the Board has taken the following steps:

1. Wall Township Police were dispatched to the Board's business meeting to provide additional security in light of your attendance.
2. A security detail has been assigned to the Board's Business Office at taxpayer expense.
3. Given the nature of your threatening conduct, we contacted the Wall Township Police, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office as well as the New Jersey State Police Threat Analysis Unit.
4. Student representatives who are typically in attendance at the Board's business meeting as well as the members of the NNDCC were absent by design in order to ensure their safety.

You are advised, again, as follows:

1. Given your continued disruptive and threatening conduct, you are not permitted on school property. You have absolutely no reason to be in or around any school building. District security has been so advised. Any attempt to enter school property shall result, among other things, in police involvement for trespass.
2. The only two types of meetings open to the public are the Board's business meetings and bid openings. Additional security will be provided at the Board's business meetings if you are in attendance. We consider your ability to attend the Board's business meetings a privilege that may be revoked based upon continued disruption by you. As for any bid openings, those meetings will be held in an alternate location.

Please note that engaging in this threatening conduct is detrimental to the Wall community, including the parents, taxpayers, students and staff. No one should need to be worried about your conduct jeopardizing their safety when they come to work or school. Your conduct not only creates a hostile

Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.

Our File No. 95207

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environment but it derails the very reason that we are all here: to provide the best learning environment for the students in Wall Township.

In the event that you do not immediately cease and desist engaging in threatening conduct, including, but not limited to, specific attacks on Mr. Smyth and the members of the Board, we will have no alternative but to pursue all legal remedies available to the District and its staff, including but not limited to, injunctive relief, damages, attorney's fees and costs of suit. Please know that we will also seek to recoup any taxpayer money expended as a result of your inappropriate behavior.

Very truly yours,

METHFESSEL & WERBEL, ESQS.



Athina L Cornell

xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx

Ext. 175

ALC:amo

Enclosure

cc: **Via Email:** @

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



Wall Township, NJ Residents ...

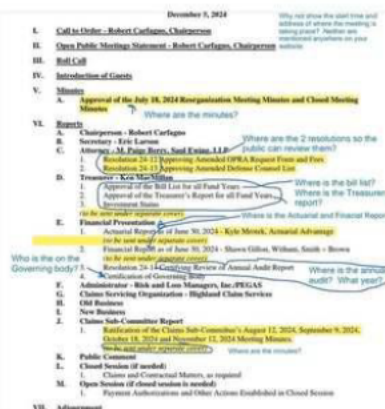
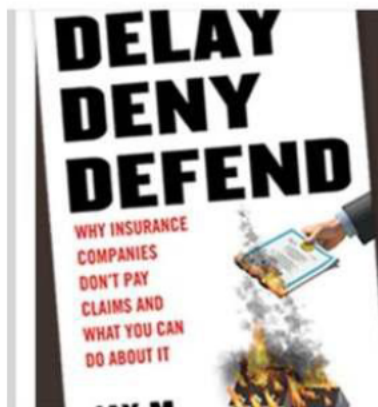


Betsy Cross · 23m ·

Delay Deny Defend

Those 3 words pretty much sums up the Wall BOE Custodian of Records Brian Smyth and the Wall BOE. I will post the link for the SCHOOL EXCESS Meeting today 12/5/2024 at 3 pm. They should be approving the CENTRAL SCHOOL TRAILER lawsuit in the claims list. Wall taxpayers got stuck paying around \$250K including a \$50,000 deductible all hid from the taxpayers. Brian shockingly didn't get fired. MCPO never interviewing Brian Smyth and Ted Hopkinds certainly didn't help the sick child. Crum & Forster paid out \$240,000 for Wall and they were paid \$36,551 in premium to cover 10 schools. NEW environmental policy effective at 7/1/2019. Policy issued 7/30/2019 to cover 10 School districts. Wall gets hit with a claim 30 days later from injured student. Wall refuses to allow architect to look at trailers when visiting Central School for referendum mid July 2019. Architect ONLY allowed in when the BOARD OF HEALTH shuts them down. Coincidence!!!

#FireBrianSmyth



1 comment