



Saddle River School District - Wandell School
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January 4, 2024

VIA E-MAIL [opra+request-55939-bdb67935@requests.opramachine.com]

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 18, 2023. The seven business day deadline (including the closure of district offices from 12/25/23 - 1/1/24) to respond to your Request is January 4, 2024. As such, the District is timely responding to your Request in accordance with New Jersey law.

Your Request seeks the following records:

All complaints filed against Board Member Evelyn Nissirios between January 1, 2023, and March 31, 2023, as received by the then Saddle River Board President, Mr. John Peros using the email address of johnperos@wandellschool.org

This includes, but is not limited to, written complaints and emails documenting allegations of wrongdoing against Ms. Nissirios.

Mr. Peros' response to each complaint: This includes any written communication from Mr. Peros acknowledging receipt of the complaint, outlining any investigation or internal procedures taken, and/or providing a decision or resolution regarding the complaint.

Ms. Evelyn Nissirios' recent reappointment to a board seat by the Saddle River Board, amid significant public scrutiny and opposition, including concerns raised by a newly elected Councilperson of Saddle River regarding the selection process, necessitates prompt attention to this request. It's essential that any related documents be provided as swiftly as possible, given the urgency of the situation.

Should there be a need for an extension, I expect a comprehensive explanation detailing the reasons for the delay, along with a projected timeline for the provision of the requested information.

Common Law Reason: Access to these records is crucial for understanding the nature of the complaints against Ms. Nissirios and the Board's response. This information is vital for public oversight and maintaining trust in our local government.

OPRA allows the records custodian to seek extensions of time pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5i. In light of the District's current demands following Winter recess, the District requires an additional four weeks (until February 1, 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

c: OPRA file