



**MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS**  
**423 Buckelew Avenue**  
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**DR. ADAM M. LAYMAN**  
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June 13, 2025

**VIA EMAIL: [opra+request-77221-e94c8f5f@requests.opramachine.com](mailto:opra+request-77221-e94c8f5f@requests.opramachine.com)**

Sally Loves Pets

**Re: OPRA Request dated June 3, 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Monroe Township Board of Education ("Board" and/or "District"), I write in furtherance of my correspondence to you, dated June 4, 2025, in response to your request for records pursuant to the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") submitted via email at 5:07 pm on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 and received on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

OPRA allows custodians to seek extensions of time within which to respond, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5. Specifically, the OPRA states that, in the event a records custodian needs additional time to fulfill the request, the custodian shall be entitled to a reasonable extension of time and shall notify the requester of the time extension. In regard to your request, this office requested such an extension until Friday, June 20, 2025. Accordingly, the Board's response to your request is set forth below.

**"Text messages sent and received by board Members Peter Tufano and Gazala Bohra on their personal cell phones between May 5-15, 2025 with keywords 'Chari', 'Chanley', 'paid administrative leave', 'suspension', 'motion', 'superintendent' or 'ethics'."**

As a preliminary matter, please be advised that personnel records are not government records and are therefore prohibited from disclosure under the OPRA. The OPRA only permits the disclosure of limited specific personnel information, specifically, the disclosure of an individual's name, title, position, salary, payroll record, length of service, date of separation and the reason for such separation, and the amount and type of any pension received. See N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10 and Libertarians for Transparent Government v. Cumberland County, 250 N.J. 46 (2022).

In addition, please note that your request for copies of emails with keywords "Chari", "Chanley", "paid administrative leave", "suspension", "motion", "superintendent", or "ethics" is overly broad in that the requests fail to include a narrowly construed subject or content and thus do not identify specific requested records. See Elcavage v. West Milford Twp. (Passaic), GRC Complaint No. 2009-07 (April 2010); Doss v. Borough of

Paramus (Bergen), GRC Complaint No. 2014-149 (Interim Order dated January 30, 2015); Gannett New Jersey Partners L.P. v. County of Middlesex, 379 N.J. Super. 205, 211-12, 877 A.2d 330 (App. Div. 2005); New Jersey Builders Association v. New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166, 178 (App. Div.), certify. Denied, 190 N.J. 394 (2007); Bent v. Stafford Police Dep't, 381 N.J. Super. 30, 40 (App. Div. 2005); NJ Builders Assoc. v. NJ Council on Affordable Housing, 390 N.J. Super. 166, 180 (App. Div. 2007); Burke v. Brandes, 429 N.J. Super. 169, 172, 176 (App. Div. 2012). Under OPRA, one cannot submit “wholesale requests for general information to be analyzed, collated and compiled by the responding government entity.” MAG Entertainment, LLC v. Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 375 N.J. Super. 534, 868 A.2d 1067 (App. Div. 2005). (The Court found a request for “all books, records, [and] documents” related to a specific project to be improper.)

Your request contains generic keywords that can easily appear in a vast quantity of records without any specific meaning. There is no requirement pursuant to OPRA which requires the Board to attempt to locate responsive correspondence containing a single word of generic meaning without any context. See Elcavage v. West Milford Twp. (Passaic), GRC Complaint No. 2009-07 (April 2010); Burke v. Brandes, 429 N.J. Super. 169, 172, 176 (App. Div. 2012). Further, requiring a custodian to locate responsive correspondence based on a single generic keyword is clearly not consistent with the establishment of “subject or content” as one of the criteria for a valid correspondence search. See Sandoval v. NJ State Parole Board, GRC Complaint No. 2006-167 (October 2008), and Schuler v. Borough of Bloomsbury, GRC Complaint No. 2007-151 (February 2009). Most importantly, using generic keywords is analogous to the type of overly broad request that the MAG and NJ Builder Association Courts determined to be invalid.

Further, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5, a custodian is not required to fulfill a request for text messages “if the request does not identify a specific job title or accounts to be searched, a specific subject matter, and is not confined to a reasonable time period”. As submitted, your request does not include a specific subject matter.

Thus, as composed, the request contains generic terms which do not constitute a specific subject matter. As such, your request requires the Board to perform research and use judgement as to whether each text message is actually responsive to your request in order to respond properly. The OPRA does not require such actions.

However, in lieu of denying your request, a search was conducted of records to identify any responsive documents related to Superintendent Chari Chanley being placed on paid administrative leave or suspended. There are no records responsive to your request.

This correspondence and the foregoing information constitutes the Board’s full and complete response to your OPRA request and therefore, your OPRA request is closed.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Goldstein*

Lisa Goldstein

OPRA Secretary/Custodian of Records & Central Registration Secretary