



Decatur Public School District #61  
101 West Cerro Gordo Street  
Decatur IL 62523 – 217.362.3011

Melissa Bradford  
Freedom of Information Officer

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August 16, 2023

Reed Sutman  
Phone: 217 413-9202  
Email: [reed@decaturvote.com](mailto:reed@decaturvote.com)

Dear Sutman,

I am in receipt of your Freedom of Information Request (FOIA), which was emailed by you and received by me on Wednesday, August 02, 2023. Decatur Public School's response was due Wednesday, August 09, 2023. On Wednesday, August 09, 2023, the District extended the time for a response by five business days to Wednesday, August 16, 2023. The FOIA request asked for the following:

**Subject:** FOIA Request – Communications - Under Illinois FOIA 5 ILCS 140/1, I request the following. Additionally, per Section 2(h), "Voluminous Request" does not apply because this is a request made by a news organization for "(1) to access and disseminate information concerning news and current or passing events; (2) for articles of opinion or features of interest to the public;" Any search terms should be considered case INsensitive.

1. Robocalls, text messages, and emails to Dennis Families and staff regarding Dennis Structural Issues. These should include communications on June 19th related to the June 21st Special Board Meeting. These should include all other communications to Dennis Families & Staff regarding Dennis Structural Issues from February 7 - August 1, 2023. Please exclude any replies or forwards. I would only like the District's official message that is being sent. Do not send audio recordings of robocalls if scripts are available. Please include date/time such messages were sent and which group they were sent to (i.e. Dennis Family or Dennis Staff). Please send as a spreadsheet (.csv or .xlsx) if possible.
  - **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #1."**  
**There is no other document responsive to this request.**
2. Details (time, attendees), agenda, documents, audio/video recordings of a possible May 31st meeting and possible zoom call with Phillip Holthaus, BLDD, & Kent Metzger. Holthaus wrote to Metzger on May 31 at 7:22am "Please send a zoom invite for our meeting this morning. I will need to join the call from home." and Metzger forwarded that email to BLDD at 7:53. I'm looking for documents related to that meeting.



- **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #2."**  
**There is no other document responsive to this request.**
- 3. A record of all zoom calls from June 1, 2022 through the date of this request. Each call should include details: date/time call started, length of call, attendees in the call, purpose of the call. Please send as a spreadsheet (.csv or .xlsx)
  - **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #3."**  
**There is no other document responsive to this request.**
- 4. Emails sent by Denise Swarthout regarding personal items that will not be packed from Dennis buildings, and any communications with regard to that announcement - such as communications between admins discussing this. This is prior to the OSHA complaint.
  - **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #4."**  
**There is no other document responsive to this request.**
- 5. All communications (text messages, emails, records of phone calls and any digital communications) regarding the OSHA complaint, related to Dennis. I do not need a copy of the letter that is posted on the DPS website.
  - **Response: See the attached documents titled, "DPS Response #5a, DPS Response #5b and DPS Response #5c."** Some information was exempt because it contains private information and communications between the District and its attorney (Attorney/Client Privilege 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b); 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m)). The copy of the OSHA complaint can be found via our website as follows: [www.dps61.org](http://www.dps61.org) ~ Once on DPS's home page, click the link on the right of our two Dennis campuses that says "click here to read structural analysis, timeline and next steps" or by entering the following link: <https://engage.dps61.org/dennisfuture>. There is no other document responsive to this request.
- 6. Any requests (whether email or an internal system) for and discussions about removing and/or installing a garfield playground. I believe Mrs. Morrison had requested a playground in 2021 or 2022, and i'd like that request. Please return emails containing the search terms "garfield" AND "playground" for Jan 1, 2021 - June 1, 2023.
  - **Response: Your request, as currently formulated,** (any requests (whether email or an internal system) for and discussions about removing and/or installing a garfield playground. I believe Mrs. Morrison had requested a playground in 2021 or 2022, and i'd like that request. Please return emails containing the search terms "garfield" AND "playground" for Jan 1, 2021 - June 1, 2023) **yields "229,760 hits."** The number of records identified as responsive to your request is unduly burdensome as each individual record must be reviewed and redacted to prevent applicable FOIA exemptions. Again, the aforesaid review would be unduly burdensome to the District. Please contact the District to confer as to whether your request can be narrowed to a manageable proportion.
- 7. Any emails, text messages, record of phone calls, record of zoom (or other digital) meetings with Alltown Bus Service (and/or their representatives/employees) between May 30, 2023 and August 1, 2023.
  - **Response: There is no document responsive to this request.**



8. All emails sent or received by Kent Metzger on February 22, 2023 and February 23, 2023.
- **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #8." Records have also been redacted pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA because they contained private information, 7(1)(c) of FOIA because they contained personal information.**
9. All communications with ISBE or ROE regarding the 2013 HLS Surveys for Dennis (Mosaic) and French (Kaleidoscope). I believe these should be in IWAS. Please do not send the 2013 HLS Surveys themselves, as they are available online.
- **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #9."**
10. All emails from/to any of the following individuals on June 18th, 2023 AND June 19th, 2023: Maria Robertson, Denise Swarthout, Dr. Rochelle Clark, Dr. Jay Marino, Deanne Hillman. Please exclude email sent to [welisten@dps61.org](mailto:welisten@dps61.org) from members of the public and from [welisten@dps61.org](mailto:welisten@dps61.org) to members of the public.
- **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #10." Records have also been redacted pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA because they contained private information, 7(1)(c) of FOIA because they contained personal information.**
11. All emails involving District business conducted through Dr. Curry's gmail address [mcurryedu@gmail.com](mailto:mcurryedu@gmail.com) for May 1, 2023 - August 1, 2023.
- **Response: See the attached document titled, "DPS Response to #11."**
12. All emails to/from ISBE and ROE#39 about Dennis from February 7, 2023 - August 2, 2023. This should include but is not limited to: July 13 email with Derrick Langwith, and any replies, forwards, and later messages on that thread, July 20 email with Dr. Jason Helfer, and any replies, forwards, and later messages on that thread. All emails to/from an isbe email address containing the words "dennis" OR "mosaic" OR "kaleidoscope." All emails to/from an ROE email address containing the words "dennis" OR "mosaic" OR "kaleidoscope"
- **Response: Your request, as currently formulated, (all emails to/from ISBE and ROE#39 about Dennis from February 7, 2023 - August 2, 2023. This should include but is not limited to: July 13 email with Derrick Langwith, and any replies, forwards, and later messages on that thread, July 20 email with Dr. Jason Helfer, and any replies, forwards, and later messages on that thread. All emails to/from an isbe email address containing the words "dennis" OR "mosaic" OR "kaleidoscope," "All emails to/from an ROE email address containing the words "dennis" OR "mosaic" OR "kaleidoscope" yields "252,727 hits." The number of records identified as responsive to your request is unduly burdensome as each individual record must be reviewed and redacted to prevent applicable FOIA exemptions. Again, the aforesaid review would be unduly burdensome to the District. Please contact the District to confer as to whether your request can be narrowed to a manageable proportion.**
13. All emails containing the words "dennis" AND "demolition" or "dennis" AND "demolish" or "dennis" AND "tear down" or "dennis" AND "new building" from May 1, 2022 - August 1, 2023.

- **Response: Your request, as currently formulated,** (all emails containing the words "dennis" AND "demolition" or "dennis" AND "demolish" or "dennis" AND "tear down" or "dennis" AND "new building" from May 1, 2022 - August 1, 2023 **yields "404,827 hits."** **The number of records identified as responsive to your request is unduly burdensome as each individual record must be reviewed and redacted to prevent applicable FOIA exemptions. Again, the aforesaid review would be unduly burdensome to the District. Please contact the District to confer as to whether your request can be narrowed to a manageable proportion.**

This response is intended to comply with your request. Should you feel that the District has misinterpreted your request, or should you wish to clarify your request, please contact the District, in writing, so that it may respond accordingly. Additionally, you are hereby notified, pursuant to Section 9 of the Act (5 ILCS 140/9), of your right to review by the Public Access Counselor:

Ms. Leah Bartelt Public Access Counselor Office of the Attorney General 500 S. 2nd Street Springfield, Illinois 62701	Phone: 1-877-299-FOIA (1-877-299-3642) Fax: (217) 782-1396 Email: <a href="mailto:public.access@ilag.gov">public.access@ilag.gov</a>
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You are further notified that you have the right to judicial review as provided in Section 11 of the Act (5 ILCS 140/11).

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Bradford  
Freedom of Information Officer

cc: Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent  
Attorney  
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