



July 1, 2018

Jennifer Colangelo
Office of the Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Ga 30334

Submitted via email on July 1, 2018 to jcolangelo@law.ga.gov

Re: Complaint against Evans County Board of Education

Mrs. Colangelo,

Attached you will find an Open Records Request filed with the Evans County Board of Education on June 28, 2018.

I received a response from the Superintendent of the school system on Sunday, July 1, 2018 with an estimated cost of \$8,233.62. The letter also indicates that I will be charged for the cost of printing emails at \$0.10 per page in order to fulfill my request, and the Board is claiming there are more than 30,000 emails.

I am challenging the following responses from the Board of Education:

1. I challenge that Dr. Karen Bland, who earns more than \$108,000 annually according to Open Georgia, is the lowest paid and qualified person to redact the documents in a personnel file. I have requested similar documentation in other counties and been charged little to nothing for these types of requests.
2. I challenge that Allison Boatright, who is the Finance Director paid more than \$82,000 annually according to Open Georgia, is the lowest paid and qualified person to provide documents which detail how much each employee at the district office was paid during the most recent school year. I further refute that it will take three hours to gather this information since the request was only employees at the BOE district office. The information has already been submitted to the state in some form and was published in the local newspaper last year.
3. I challenge that Dr. Karen Bland, same as reference in No. 1, is the only person qualified to provide documentation detailing how much each district office employee will be paid for the 2018-19 school year. The amount of employees is limited and the Board of Education, at its most recent meeting, approved the salary schedules for the employees at the district office. I also challenge the three hour time period given to locate this information, which coordinates with what just occurred in an open meeting in late June.
4. I challenge that it will cost \$6,624 worth of time to retrieve emails related to items 4-6 in my original request.
 - a. I challenge that so many employees at the district office and Board Office members need to have their emails examined and are privy to the personnel decisions of other district office employees.
 - b. Further, the time period of the request is limited and nearly every email service provider has a "search" option and does not require emails, especially 30,000, to be printed in order for them

to be searched. It appears the BOE is attempting to 'tack on' additional fees to halt the release of the documents. The suggestion of printing everything is not an efficient mechanism for retrieval.

- c. I challenge that the Board will need 4 full months to fulfill this request, given 4b.
- d. The Superintendent did not detail how much Mr. Myers is paid per hour, though one can deduce it is \$36 per hour. This entire explanation of 4-6 does not make sense. The costs detailed in 4-6 exceed the "total cost" of \$0.10 per page in copies is included, so it not clear what the true cost of this request is. On the estimate provided, copies would be another \$3,000, bringing the total request to over \$11,000.

I was also under the impression that the first 15 minutes of work fulfilling a request was not to be invoiced, per the Open Records Act. That is not reflected in this response.

I would appreciate any assistance you can offer. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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