



bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Fwd: OPRA - April Responses

1 message

Laura Kapuscinski [REDACTED]
To: bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Mon, May 8, 2023 at 12:52 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Kapuscinski
Date: May 8, 2023 at 10:34:08 AM EDT
To: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, Joy Young <jyoung@bhpsnj.org>, BOE Foregger <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>, Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, Jordan Hyman <jhyman@bhpsnj.org>, Robert Cianciulli <rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org>, "Stanley, Pamela" <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>, Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>
Subject: Fwd: OPRA - April Responses

Good morning.

I wanted to share the correspondence below from your newly appointed Records Custodian.

I hope you will understand that my opposition to Mr. Hopkins taking on this position held legitimate weight, and my concerns have come to fruition. I'm not sure how any of you thought picking an existing, full-time Director of studies was a good choice as the Districts sole Records Custodian.

You have essentially hired someone who is as busy, if not busier, than Ms. Kot to take on part of her job.

15 OPRA requests needing to be fulfilled is not an onslaught, nor should it require extensions for simple requests. A *legitimate* and *reasonable* reason to request any extension, let alone 5 weeks, does not constitute being "too busy" with other jobs.

You are paying someone a stipend to send out OPRA extensions responses, because **he is too busy** to fulfill them in a timely matter.

Mr. Hopkins is clearly unable to properly serve as Records Custodian. He has already admitted to error that led to names of children being exposed (assuming that was, in fact, a mistake) and has now admittedly stated he's too busy to do both jobs.

It is my belief that his inability to properly serve as Records Custodian is setting up the District to be liable for what will be an onslaught of troubles as 'being too busy with my other jobs' isn't a legitimate or reasonable response or explanation for extension under GRC guidelines for a Records Custodian.

-Laura Kapuscinski

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Requests, OPRA" <opra@bhpsnj.org>

Subject: Re: OPRA - April Responses

Date: May 4, 2023 at 4:01:00 PM EDT

To: Laura Kapuscinski [REDACTED]

Cc: shopkins@bhpsnj.org, "Dr. Melissa Varley" <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>

M. Kapuscinski,

Good Afternoon,

There are currently 15 active OPRA requests. Depending on the nature of the OPRA request, they are answered roughly in the order in which they are submitted. Acting as Custodian of Records and completing OPRA requests are in addition to my responsibilities as a District Director and Academic Supervisor, not in replacement of it. April and May are extremely busy times of year - budget, multiple weeks of various testing, summative evaluation completion and conferences, staffing, potential student failures for the year, etc... All of these specific tasks are in addition to the day-to-day routines of the job including student, staff, and parental issues, concerns, and communication. Finally, as I am sure you are aware, if I should happen to make a mistake on any OPRA requests complaints are taken directly to the Board of Education. Taking all of these into consideration, as well as the cumbersome and meticulous nature of the process itself, I schedule the completion of OPRA requests within a time frame where I can reasonably and correctly complete the task.

The above represents both a reasonable and legitimate explanation for the five week response time for your latest request.

Best

Steve Hopkins
Director BHPS

On Wed, May 3, 2023 at 9:43 PM Laura Kap [REDACTED] wrote:

Per GRC; <https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/faqs/>

Can the custodian take more than seven (7) business days to respond to my OPRA request?

Yes. Custodians may seek extensions of time beyond the seven (7) business day deadline for legitimate reasons (such as the record is in use or in storage). Custodians must notify the requestor in writing, within the statutorily mandated seven (7) business days and provide an anticipated deadline date upon which the records will be provided. The length of the

extension must be reasonable under the circumstances. The Custodian's failure to grant or deny access to the requested records by the extended deadline date results in a deemed denial of the request.

Would you kindly please provide me with the legitimate and reasonable explanation that you require a 5 week extension to a simple and specific attachment that I have identified in my initial OPRA Request.

I look forward to hearing from you.
-Laura Kapuscinski

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Requests, OPRA" <opra@bhpsnj.org>
Subject: **Re: OPRA - April Responses**
Date: May 3, 2023 at 4:01:00 PM EDT
To: Laura Kapuscinski <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Dr. Melissa Varley" <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>