

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 3, 2024

Via electronic mail
The Honorable Ed Mulholland
President, Board of Education
North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
6248 North Boone School Road
Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065
emulholland@nbcusd.org

RE: OMA Requests for Review – 2024 PAC 80841-80843

Dear Mr. Mullholland:

The Public Access Bureau has received the enclosed Requests for Review under section 3.5(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/3.5(a) (West 2022)) from Mr. William Randall alleging that the North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200 (District) Board of Education (Board) and two of its committees violated OMA by not providing adequate notice of meetings. We have determined that further action is warranted.¹

In his Requests for Review, Mr. Randall alleges that he went to the District's primary office, which is also the Board's primary meeting location, less than 48 hours before three meetings: the Facilities-Long Range Planning Committee meeting held on February 27, 2024, the Policy Committee meeting held on March 6, 2024, and the regular Board meeting held on March 19, 2024. He alleged that the agenda for each meeting was not available for viewing each time he went to the office, and provided a timestamped photograph of the door to the District office for each visit. Mr. Randall further alleged that he spoke with the District's administrative assistant to the superintendent who said that she posts the agendas inside the building, which is locked at certain hours of the day, in a display case in the foyer.

¹Because the allegations are similar for the three meetings, the Board and the respective committees may consolidate the response to these allegations in one response letter.

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In order to evaluate this matter, we request that the Board or its legal representative provide copies of any notices, agendas, minutes (in draft form if necessary, for this office's confidential review), and recordings of the open sessions of these three meetings. Please also provide a written response to the allegation that the Board failed to post the meeting agendas at the District's principal office in a location where they were "continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting[,]" and please verify whether the agendas were continuously available on the District's website during that time period by providing any evidence in that regard.

As required by section 3.5(b) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2022)), please provide this information to our office within 7 business days after receipt of this letter. As we review this matter, we will notify you if we require additional records or information. Please note that under OMA, this office is required to forward a copy of any response to the requester and to provide the requester with an opportunity to reply. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2022). The Act also permits the public body to provide a redacted version of its response for release to the requester. If you claim that any portion of your written response is confidential, please send two versions of your response letter: a complete copy for this office's confidential review and a redacted version suitable for this office to forward to the requester.

Please contact me at katherine.goldsmith@ilag.gov if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Katia Holdemith

KATIE GOLDSMITH Assistant Attorney General Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

cc: Via electronic mail

Mr. William Randall 7090 Randall Road Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065 ifihave1@yahoo.com

²5 ILCS 120/2.02(c) (West 2022).

The Honorable Ed Mulholland April 3, 2024 Page 2

In order to evaluate this matter, we request that the Board or its legal representative provide copies of any notices, agendas, minutes (in draft form if necessary, for this office's confidential review), and recordings of the open sessions of these three meetings. Please also provide a written response to the allegation that the Board failed to post the meeting agendas at the District's principal office in a location where they were "continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting[,]"² and please verify whether the agendas were continuously available on the District's website during that time period by providing any evidence in that regard.

As required by section 3.5(b) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2022)), please provide this information to our office within 7 business days after receipt of this letter. As we review this matter, we will notify you if we require additional records or information. Please note that under OMA, this office is required to forward a copy of any response to the requester and to provide the requester with an opportunity to reply. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2022). The Act also permits the public body to provide a redacted version of its response for release to the requester. If you claim that any portion of your written response is confidential, please send two versions of your response letter: a complete copy for this office's confidential review and a redacted version suitable for this office to forward to the requester.

Please contact me at katherine.goldsmith@ilag.gov if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Katia Goldsmith

KATIE GOLDSMITH Assistant Attorney General Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

cc: Via electronic mail

Mr. William Randall 7090 Randall Road

Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

ifihave1@yahoo.com

²5 ILCS 120/2.02(c) (West 2022).

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KWAME RAOUL ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 8, 2024

Via electronic mail Mr. William Randall 7090 Randall Road Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065 ifihavel@yahoo.com

RE: OMA Requests for Review – 2024 PAC 80841-80843

Dear Mr. Randall:

The Public Access Bureau has received the attached answer to your Requests for Review from the North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200 (District) Board of Education (Board) This answer is the Board's response to the issues you raised concerning the Open Meetings Act (OMA). 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (West 2022). The Board has provided this office with a confidential answer as well, but OMA prohibits this office from disclosing that answer to you. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2022).

This office has not yet determined whether or not the Board violated OMA. You now have the option of replying in writing to the Board's answer by providing any additional information or arguments about the issues you raised in your Requests for Review.

A reply is not required but, if you choose to reply, you must submit your reply to this office within 7 business days of your receipt of this letter. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2022). Please send a copy of any reply to the Board as well.

As the next step, this office will consider the information and arguments presented by both parties and analyze the law to determine whether or not a violation of OMA occurred. The time that this process takes varies from case to case. We will notify you in writing of this office's conclusions when the review is complete.

Mr. William Randall April 8, 2024 Page 2

If you have any questions, you may contact me at katherine.goldsmith@ilag.gov.

Very truly yours,

Katie Goldsmith

KATIE GOLDSMITH Assistant Attorney General Public Access Bureau

Attachment

cc: Via electronic mail

Dr. Michael Greenlee

Superintendent

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

6248 North Boone School Road Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065 mgreenlee@nbcusd.org

cc: Via electronic mail

Mrs. Andrea Sowers

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200

6248 North Boone School Road Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

asowers@nbcusd.org

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