

June 21, 2007

Detroit Public Schools
Attn: Office of the General Counsel
3031 W Grand Blvd
Detroit, MI, 48202

Re: Request for District Information

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a public records request pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Act 442 Section 15.233

I hereby request the following documents from Detroit Public Schools:

- Documentation identifying the name and position (e.g., teacher, principal, administrator, etc.) of each current district employee; salary, pension, health insurance, and other benefits paid to each current district employee; and length of employment of each current district employee.
- A copy of district termination procedures for educators and for administrators.
- Copies of all formal tenure charges brought against educators and/or administrators (including principals) in the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003.
- Any and all resignation, separation, and termination notices, letters, and/or records for all educators and administrators whose resignations, separations and/or terminations occurred during or after the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003; these records must indicate the tenure status of the aforementioned employees.
- Termination settlement agreements between the district and any and all tenured and/or untenured educators and administrators terminated (voluntarily or involuntarily) during or after the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003; these records must include any provisions that the district modify any of the performance evaluations of the terminated employee, pay a settlement to the terminated employee, or decline to inform future employers of the reason for termination.
- Documentation of the percentage of each school district attorney's work time spent on tenured faculty termination hearings, negotiations, and/or arbitration, plus salary and benefit information for each attorney.
- Attorney bills paid for any and all time spent on teacher termination hearings, negotiations, and/or arbitration if the district retains outside counsel for such proceedings.
- Documentation of performance evaluations and/or ratings for each district educator and administrator receiving such evaluations and/or ratings, for the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003.

This request is not meant to be exclusive of any documents which, though not specifically requested, would have a reasonable relationship to the subject matter of this request.

To expedite the information retrieval process, I request that you send any and all of the information requested above that is available electronically (e.g., as a Microsoft Word, Excel, or Access file) to me at this address: berry@unionfacts.com. If sending the information electronically is not feasible, my fax number is (202) 463-7107.

In the event that my request for access to any of the documentation listed above is denied under state law, I further request that I be provided with any and all non-exempt portions of the documentation which are reasonably segregable.

I further request that you describe the withheld material in detail and specify the statutory basis for the denial as well as your reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies in this instance. Please separately state your reasons for not invoking your discretionary powers to release the requested documents in the public interest. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination, and in formulating arguments in case an appeal is taken.

Written justification will also help to avoid unnecessary litigation. I reserve my right to appeal the withholding, deletion, redaction or censoring of any information and request that you provide me with the contact information of the office where such an appeal may be sent.

I am willing to pay up to \$250.00 (two-hundred and fifty dollars) to cover the costs of document search and duplication. Please inform me if the cost exceeds this amount; I am willing to discuss other options.

I understand that this is a very large request and that not all of this information can be collected immediately for release, and **I will be happy to discuss or clarify any aspect of this request.** Please contact me within seven days at this phone number to discuss an efficient means of transmission: (202) 463-7106.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Berry
Senior Research Analyst
Center for Union Facts
(202) 463-7106
berry@unionfacts.com

October 23, 2007

Detroit Board of Education
Attn: Josephine Slappey
3031 W Grand Blvd
Detroit, MI 48202

Re: Request for District Information

Dear Ms. Slappey:

This is a public records request pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Act 442 Section 15.233.

I hereby request the following documents from the Detroit Board of Education:

1. A count of the number of administrators in the district plus a count of teachers (broken down into probationary and post-probationary/"tenured" teachers).
2. A list of all administrators and post-probationary/"tenured" teachers who resigned or retired in lieu of termination, and of all who were terminated during or after the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003. This list must include the reason(s) why each was separated from the district, if such records are kept.
3. A count (names are not needed) of all probationary teachers who resigned or retired in lieu of termination, and of all who were terminated during or after the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003. This item must include counts of the reason(s) why such teachers were separated from the district, if such records are kept.
4. Any written settlements or agreements between the district and any and all administrators, educators, and support employees terminated (voluntarily or involuntarily) during or after the school years ending in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003 -- including the last salary rate paid, the last benefits paid, the last position(s) held, and the employment status (probationary or post-probationary/"tenured", if applicable) of the person in each case. To fulfill the public information request, these records must include any provisions that the district modify the personnel file (including performance evaluations) of the employee, pay a settlement to the employee, or decline to inform future employers of the reason for termination.
5. Any and all documents from the district for each settlement case detailing why the employee's termination, retirement, or resignation was pursued (such as a principal's observation that a teacher was incompetent or inefficient, or a district's determination that an administrator was embezzling district funds).

Please group documents so that all paperwork concerning one individual is arranged in chronological order.

This request is not meant to be exclusive of any documents which, though not specifically requested, would have a reasonable relationship to the subject matter of this request.

To expedite the information retrieval process, I request that you send any and all of the information requested above that is available electronically (e.g., as a Microsoft Word, Excel, or Access file) to me at this address: berry@unionfacts.com. If sending the information electronically is not feasible, my fax number is (202) 463-7107.

In the event that my request for access to any of the documentation listed above is denied under state law, I further request that I be provided with any and all non-exempt portions of the documentation which are reasonably segregable.

I further request that you describe the withheld material in detail and specify the statutory basis for the denial as well as your reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies in this instance. Please separately state your reasons for not invoking your discretionary powers to release the requested documents in the public interest. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination, and in formulating arguments in case an appeal is taken.

Written justification will also help to avoid unnecessary litigation. I reserve my right to appeal the withholding, deletion, redaction or censoring of any information and request that you provide me with the contact information of the office where such an appeal may be sent.

I am willing to pay up to \$250.00 (two-hundred and fifty dollars) to cover the costs of document search and duplication, provided the response to my request is satisfactory. Please inform me if the cost exceeds this amount; I am willing to discuss other options.

I will be happy to discuss or clarify any aspect of this request. Please contact me within seven days at the phone number below to discuss an efficient means of transmission.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Berry
Senior Research Analyst
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