

Somerset County Public Schools

Dr. Ava Tasker-Mitchell
Superintendent of Schools
Tracie Bartemy
Director of Schools



Board Members
Matthew Lankford, Chairman
Andrew Gleason, Vice Chairman
Mary Beth Bozman
William McInturff
John Robertson

September 10, 2025

Zoe Ginsberg
zginsberg@aclu-md.org
Delivered via email

Dear Ms. Ginsberg,

This response is in reference to your information request received on August 11, 2025 by email and webform submission. This communication is in response to your request, which is being handled under the terms of the Public Information Act, Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article (GP) §4-101, et seq.

Having conferred with the appropriate Somerset County Public Schools (SCPS) department(s), I write now to advise you that records responsive to your request are enclosed with this letter.

Please note that not all documents requested in your August 11, 2025 are disclosable under the MPIA. The relevant exception from the MD General Provisions Code is cited for any document not disclosed with this request in the list below.

Records not disclosed	Exception
Correspondence – OIGE & Board, re: July 24, 2025 report	GP § 4-343 - Administrative/Investigatory Records
OIGE correspondence re: July 25, 2025 report	GP § 4-343 - Administrative/Investigatory Records
Complaint by Dr. Tasker-Mitchell	GP § 4-343 - Administrative/Investigatory Records
Tasker-Mitchell complaint seeking removal of Chairman Lankford	GP § 4-343 - Administrative/Investigatory Records
Termination docs – Darren Burns & CarneyKelehan LLP	GP § 4-301 - Attorney-Client Privilege
Terms/date/time remaining/reasons for Burns' termination	GP § 4-301 - Attorney-Client Privilege
Docs on hiring Schifanelli Law LLP	GP § 4-301 - Attorney-Client Privilege
Date of hiring Schifanelli Law LLP	GP § 4-301 - Attorney-Client Privilege
Contract with Schifanelli Law LLP	GP § 4-301 - Attorney-Client Privilege
Invoices from Schifanelli Law LLP	GP § 4-301 - Attorney-Client Privilege

Briefing filed by Lankford	GP § 4-301 & § 4-343 - Attorney–Client Privilege & Litigation/Adjudicatory
Board–State communications re: Tasker-Mitchell	GP § 4-311 — Personnel Records.
Docs on proposal to hire David Bromwell	GP § 4-311 — Personnel Records.
Bromwell’s credentials & reason for departure from Dorchester Co. Public Schools	GP § 4-311 — Personnel Records.
Process for selecting proposed replacement Superintendent	GP § 4-311 — Personnel Records.
Comms with State Superintendent on Bromwell	GP § 4-311 — Personnel Records.

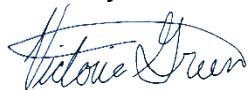
The following records, although requested, do not exist or SCPS is not the custodian of the requested record:

- Draft curriculum created by SCPS & MSDE, not approved by Board
- Process for creating/approving MSDE-approved draft curriculum
- Agenda & minutes – pilot curriculum discussion, Oct 21, 2024
- Formal request to adopt proposed curriculum, May 20, 2025
- Dates for public meetings discussing curriculum revisions
- OIGE complaint re: refusal to adopt proposed curriculum
- Guidelines for standards in Board Policy 500-19(A)(c-i) (2025)
- Proposed guidelines for Board Policy 500-19(A)(c-i)
- Draft protocols for reviewing books under Policy 500-19
- OIGE complaint re: revision of Policy 500-19
- Complaint/briefing/disposition – Matthew L., MSDE Op. No. 21-33
- Incidents of removing public from meetings since Jan 1, 2025
- Timing of publication of closing statements
- Books suggested for review by parents
- Books removed pending review
- Board trainings on Freedom to Read Act & legal obligations

In the event you disagree with any determination regarding this Maryland Public Information Act request, you have the right to seek review or remedy, in accordance with GP §4-1B-01 through §4-1B-04, with Maryland Public Access Ombudsman Lisa Kershner at lkershner@oag.state.md.us, (410) 576-7037, or by mail at the Office of the Attorney General, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202. Under GP §4-362, you also have the right to file a complaint in Circuit Court requesting a review of this decision.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 410-651-1616 ext. 11224, or by email at vgreen@somerset.k12.md.us.

Sincerely,



Victoria Green, Public Relations Supervisor & PIO