



June 27, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Millennium Charter School
500 Old Springs Rd
Mount Airy, NC 27030
mca@mcacademy.com

Re: Public Records Act Request

Dear Public Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Act, as codified at North Carolina General Statutes ch. 132, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records as promptly as possible:

1. All email communications (including any email messages, complete email chains, attachments, or calendar invitations) sent by the officials listed below and containing any of the key terms also listed below.

School Officials:

- a) Headmaster Paul Rezzo
- b) Upper School Director Jarrid Looney
- c) Lower School Director Jessica Flowers
- d) President Dr. Druery Devore
- e) Board member Ann Jones
- f) Treasurer Christopher Willingham
- g) Board Member James Crossingham
- h) Board Member Melinda Shew
- i) Board Member Susan Campbell

Key Terms:

1. CRT
2. "Critical Race Theory"
3. BLM
4. "Black Lives Matter"
5. LGBT
6. Transgender



7. “parental rights”
 8. “Parents Bill of Rights”
 9. “SB 49”
 10. Woke
 11. PragerU
 12. Prager
 13. “Divisive concept”
 14. Rufo
2. All email communications (including any email messages, complete email chains, attachments, or calendar invitations) sent by any of the officials listed in part 1 one of this request to anyone communicating on behalf of an organization listed below, including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in the listed domain(s).

Outside Entities

- a. Hillsdale College (hillsdale.edu)
- b. PragerU (prageruniversity.com or prageru.com)
- c. Heritage Foundation (heritage.org and heritageaction.com)
- d. Independent Women's Forum (ifw.org)
- e. Moms for Liberty (momsforliberty.org)
- f. Christopher Rufo (ajt@christopherrufo.com, chrisrufo@protonmail.com, or crufo@manhattan-institute.org)
- g. Claremont Institute (claremont.org)

For parts 1 and 2 of this request, in an effort to accommodate Millennium Charter School and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by the listed individuals. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Board Member Susan Campbell’s response to an email with the term “CRT” and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For parts 1-2 of this request, please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2023, through the date the search is conducted.

3. A complete copy (including any attachments) of all contracts or subcontracts, amendments, memoranda of understanding, or other written agreement between (a) Millennium Charter Academy and (b) any of the entities or individuals listed below:
- a. Hillsdale College
 - b. Mount Airy City Schools
 - c. Headmaster Paul Rezzo
 - d. Upper School Director Jarrid Looney
 - e. Lower School Director Jessica Flowers

- f. President Dr. Druery Devore
 - g. Board Member Ann Jones
 - h. Treasurer Christopher Willingham
 - i. Board Member James Crossingham
 - j. Board Member Melinda Shew
 - k. Board Member Susan Campbell
4. All resumés or curriculum vitae provided to Millennium Charter Academy by any of the officials listed below:
- a. Headmaster Paul Rezzo
 - b. Upper School Director Jarrid Looney
 - c. Lower School Director Jessica Flowers
 - d. President Dr. Druery Devore
 - e. Board member Ann Jones
 - f. Treasurer Christopher Willingham
 - g. Board Member James Crossingham
 - h. Board Member Melinda Shew
 - i. Board Member Susan Campbell

American Oversight does not object to the redaction of contact information (addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses), professional references, or past salary information. Employment, education, and professional association information is not exempt, and American Oversight objects to any redactions of such information.

For parts 3-4 of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2021, through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks “communications,” please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter.com direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind.¹ We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Public Records Act.²
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

¹ N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 132-1(a) (public records consist of documentary material “regardless of physical form or characteristics.”).

² See Atty. Gen. Josh Stein, *North Carolina Open Government Guide* at 22 (2019), <https://ncdoj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-Open-Government-Guide-2.pdf> (“Emails about official business are public records even if they are sent using the personal email account of an employee or official.”).

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.com.³

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Elizabeth Haddix at records@americanoversight.org or (252) 359-7424 ext. 1031.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Haddix
Elizabeth Haddix
on behalf of
American Oversight

³ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,400 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited May 14, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited May 14, 2024).