



February 24, 2023

Ruth Rob Frey

VIA EMAIL – robruthfrey@gmail.com

Re: FOIA Request 23-14

Subject: Correspondence between Joanne Johnson SD308 Board members between March 20, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

Dear Ms. Frey:

This letter will serve as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your 2/13/2023 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information. Attached is the information you requested. Redactions have been made due to the following exemption(s) under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act as follows:

Section 7(1)(b) - Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law, or a court order.

Section 7(1)(c) - Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.

The decision to withhold the information was made by me consulting with our District legal counsel. You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62706

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter. Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses>FOIA Requests Responses -2023 – click on the link for 23-14 for information on previous requests.*

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Andrea Wiaduch

Andrea Wiaduch
Finance Coordinator/
Freedom of Information Officer

SUBJECT:

FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

TO: ASwanson@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, donna-marino@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, fdalquist@308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, superintendent@308.org

DATE: 02/06/2022 15:51

District leadership team,

I am concerned about the potentially hostile environment for our children & teachers tomorrow. They have had enough. The emotional & psychological damage that has been done to our children cannot be undone.

You, our decision makers for our schools have decided to defy a court ruling that clearly indicates that these measures are illegal without due process.

You are knowingly breaching the oath that you have taken to uphold the US Constitution & State LAWS.

What exactly do you think you are teaching our children when you go against a courts decision?

I understand that the majority rules, but I am asking for a response from each of you as to what your stance was in defying the law.

Please respond prior to the board meeting. If I do not receive a response, I will assume that you condone this decision.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

SUBJECT: Emergency orders expired & not approved for renewal
FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]
TO: boe@sd308.org, fDahlquist@sd308.org, jsparlin@sd308.org
DATE: 02/16/2022 02:29

All,

Please end this now. You are CLEARLY in direct violation of the law.

Both the mask mandate & the vax or test mandates expired yesterday & are not being renewed.

PLEASE put an end to this so that we can begin the healing process within our community.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

<https://www.mystateline.com/news/local-news/illinois-legislators-vote-against-extending-school-mask-mandate/>

SUBJECT: RE:
FROM: "Joanne A. Johnson" [REDACTED]
TO: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>
DATE: 10/07/2022 09:41

Hi Ali,

First, thank you for responding.

Since this has had legal action taken against the practice, I wanted to go top down to ensure that the BOE didn't approve it. Today I sent an email to Mrs. Bankowski as the Principle of OE, but she is OOO, so I'm not expecting a response until next week.

Please let me know if you recommend contacting anyone else.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Alison Swanson](#)
Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 9:23 AM
To: [Joanne Johnson](#)
Subject: Re:

What did the coach say?

Just curious.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 7, 2022, at 12:37 AM, Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:
>
>
> BOE,
>
> Was a decision made to required masks again, or was this permission slip not updated?
>
> "Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with regulations in place by SD308 and the State of IL".
>
> Thank you,
> Joanne Johnson
>
>

SUBJECT: Emergency Meeting Request

FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

TO: boe@sd308.org, jsparlin@sd308.org, fdalquist@sd308.org

DATE: 02/12/2022 17:40

ATTACHMENTS (20220212-174050-0000005): ["image.png"](#)

All,

On Thursday, I served all of you (except Donna Marino) with a letter of intent to file a claim against your bond; which is at risk via your violation of the Oath you took to uphold the laws of this land. It has been made crystal clear that Mandates, Policies and/or agreements do NOT supersede the law. This was not something that I enjoyed, nor is it something that I ever wanted to do.

Thursday was a sober moment for so many of the parents in this community. We heard that our children are being discriminated against resulting in them being segregated, intimidated, abused & denied their right to an education. The school district is now also culpable for the violation your own Harassment policy shown below.

At this point the parents of this district want an **immediate board meeting** called to put this matter to rest. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR CHILDREN!!

Oswego Community Unit School District 308

7:20

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Students

Harassment of Students Prohibited

No person, including a School District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; creed; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status as homeless; or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Complaints of harassment, intimidation or bullying are handled according to the provisions on sexual harassment below. The Superintendent shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students that the District will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying by including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Joanne A. Johnson

SUBJECT: Emotional Intelligence

FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

TO: boe@sd308.org, fDahlquist@sd308.org, jsparlin@sd308.org

DATE: 02/14/2022 14:43

ATTACHMENTS (20220214-144324-00000006): ["image.png"](#)

All,

I am truly not one of those parents that takes ANY joy in holding SD308 administrators & board accountable, but as of late I can no longer sit idle.

Below is either gaslighting, or **an extreme lack of Emotional Intelligence** considering that our children's smiles have been hidden for 2 years! The timing of this is horrible. Isn't this what SEL is all about (Not the DEI training)?

I am beyond disappointed. I came here 19 years ago because of the schools. It is truly tragic to see what is happening within our community. Our children aren't pawns to be sold; in essence, that is what is happening to them right now. The money clearly supersedes their well being in your eyes.

I am all in at this point to turn our community around...



Share A Smile 2021.22

"Share A Smile" is SD 308's community way to send a shout out, thank you, word of encouragement, etc., to any staff member in the district. Every day there are staff members across the district doing great things that deserve a "Smile".....so take a moment to fill out a "Share A Smile" message which will be emailed to the recipient. "A warm smile is the universal language of kindness." ~William A. Ward

SUBJECT: Emergency orders expired & not approved for renewal
FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]
TO: boe@sd308.org, fDahlquist@sd308.org, jsparlin@sd308.org
DATE: 02/16/2022 02:29

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PLEASE put an end to this so that we can begin the healing process within our community.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

<https://www.mystateline.com/news/local-news/illinois-legislators-vote-against-extending-school-mask-mandate/>

SUBJECT:

FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

TO: boe@sd308.org

DATE: 10/07/2022 00:37

ATTACHMENTS (20221007-003745-00000007): ["image 6487327.JPG"](#)

BOE,

Was a decision made to required masks again, or was this permission slip not updated?

“Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with regulations in place by SD308 and the State of IL”.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson



SD308
COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Preseason Competition Permission Slip

Event Information

Event: Roboteer Rumble Pre-Season Competition

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2022

Time: 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Does not include transportation)

Location: Tremont High School / 400 W Pearl St / Tremont, IL 61568

Student Information

Student Name: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Transportation

Students will be taking a school bus to and from the event by the SD308 Transportation Department. Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with regulations in place by SD308 and the State of Illinois. Transportation will take place from the Gearbox and to the Gearbox.

Students must arrange from transportation to and from the Gearbox. Please make note of the departure and arrival times below.

Departure: Saturday, 11/05/22 at 5:30am. **Students should arrive at the Gearbox at 5:15am**

Arrival: Saturday, 11/05/22 between 8:00 - 8:30pm. This is a best estimate and depends on competition

Meals

Students should be prepared for a long day. Breakfast should be eaten either before you arrive or brought with to be eaten on the bus. Lunch options are: bring your own lunch, buy concessions, pitch in for pizza from Casey's. Money for pizza will be collected 1 week prior so we can put in an advance order. Please check the option below. For dinner we will be stopping for fast food on the way home.

_____ Bring my own lunch _____ Buying concessions X Pitch in for Pizza

Signature of Student if 18 or older

SUBJECT: Re:

FROM: Alison Swanson <aswanson@sd308.org>

TO: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

DATE: 10/07/2022 09:23

ATTACHMENTS (20221007-092316-0000004): ["image_6487327.JPG"](#)

What did the coach say?

Just curious.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 7, 2022, at 12:37 AM, Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:

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> BOE,

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Hi Ali,

First, thank you for responding.

Since this has had legal action taken against the practice, I wanted to go top down to ensure that the BC it. Today I sent an email to Mrs. Bankowski as the Principle of OE, but she is OOO, so I'm not expecting next week.

Please let me know if you recommend contacting anyone else.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Alison Swanson](#)

Sent: Friday, October 7, 2022 9:23 AM

To: [Joanne Johnson](#)

Subject: Re:

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> BOE,

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> "Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with place by SD308 and the State of IL".

>

> Thank you,

> Joanne Johnson

>

>

SUBJECT: Resending; I had Dr. Sparlin's email incorrect
FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]
TO: ASwanson@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, donna-marino@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, fdalquist@308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, "superintendent@sd308.org" <superintendent@sd308.org>
DATE: 02/06/2022 15:53

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 3:51 PM Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:
District leadership team,

I am concerned about the potentially hostile environment for our children & teachers tomorrow. They have had enough. The emotional & psychological damage that has been done to our children cannot be undone.

You, our decision makers for our schools have decided to defy a court ruling that clearly indicates that these measures are illegal without due process.

You are knowingly breaching the oath that you have taken to uphold the US Constitution & State LAWS.

What exactly do you think you are teaching our children when you go against a courts decision?

I understand that the majority rules, but I am asking for a response from each of you as to what your stance was in defying the law.

Please respond prior to the board meeting. If I do not receive a response, I will assume that you condone this decision.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

SUBJECT: Please watch this...

FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

TO: ASwanson@sd308.org, LDoyle@sd308.org, donna-marino@sd308.org, eugene-gatewood@sd308.org, fdalquist@sd308.org, jennifer-johnson@sd308.org, latonya-simelton@sd308.org, superintendent@sd308.org

DATE: 02/08/2022 14:34

ATTACHMENTS (20220208-143404-00000008): ["IMG_128174488.MOV"](#)

This is what's happening to our babies...

SUBJECT: Re:
FROM: Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org>
TO: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]
DATE: 10/07/2022 09:11
ATTACHMENTS (20221007-091135-0000000): ["image_6487327.JPG"](#)

Joanne,

Understood. That would be my assumption as well. Keep me in the loop if you'd like. But there has been no changes brought before us.

Hope you have a pleasant day. Stay warm out there today.

Take care.
Jared

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 8:25 AM Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:
Jared,

Thank you for your response,

My first stop was the board since these types of decisions would (or should) be made at your level. I will follow up with OE; it may have been that they used an old template & it was an honest mistake.

Thank you,
Joanne

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 7:10 AM Jared Ploger <jared-ploger@sd308.org> wrote:
Joanne,

Anything included in this email is merely my opinion and not reflective of the Board as only the Board President can speak on behalf of the Board.

I am unaware of any changes reverting back to a mask requirement on the bus. May I ask who you have checked in with besides us about this?

I can tell you that no changes asking for a return to mask mandates on bussing or anywhere else have been brought back before the Board. So, if something has changed, we are unaware.

Thank you.
Jared Ploger

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 12:37 AM Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:
BOE,

Was a decision made to required masks again, or was this permission slip not updated?

“Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with regulations in place by SD308 and the State of IL”.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson



SUBJECT: Re:
FROM: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
TO: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]
DATE: 10/07/2022 17:00
ATTACHMENTS (20221007-170019-0000007): ["image_6487327.JPG"](#)

Hello,

I'm not aware of any decision that was made. Did you first ask the Robotics chair/sponsor if this was an error?

Respectfully,

Jennifer Johnson

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 12:37 AM Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:
BOE,

Was a decision made to required masks again, or was this permission slip not updated?

“Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with regulations in place by SD308 and the State of IL”.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson



SUBJECT: Re:
FROM: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]
TO: Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>
DATE: 10/09/2022 11:05
ATTACHMENTS (20221009-110546-00000008): ["image_6487327.JPG"](#)

Hi Jennifer, thank you for the response. Dr. Sparlin sent me a message and said that it was an administrative error.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:
Hello,

I'm not aware of any decision that was made. Did you first ask the Robotics chair/sponsor if this was an error?

Respectfully,

Jennifer Johnson

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 12:37 AM Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:
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"Students riding the bus are expected to wear a mask for the duration of travel as in accordance with regulations in place by SD308 and the State of IL".

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

SUBJECT: Re:

FROM: "Jennifer-Johnson@sd308.org" <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org>

TO: Joanne Johnson [REDACTED]

DATE: 10/09/2022 11:41

ATTACHMENTS (20221009-114156-0000003): ["image_6487327.JPG"](#)

I'm glad to hear. It would have been a complete surprise to me. Thank you for looking out and keeping us informed.

Jen Johnson
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2022, at 11:06 AM, Joanne Johnson [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Jennifer, thank you for the response. Dr. Sparlin sent me a message and said that it was an administrative error.

Thank you,
Joanne Johnson

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM Jennifer Johnson <jennifer-johnson@sd308.org> wrote:
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Respectfully,

Jennifer Johnson

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