

April 6, 2021 - Response to FOIL Claims about Release of Records

Dear North Shore Parents, Community Members, and Faculty,

Yesterday, a communication was posted on social media and emailed to the community by private individuals containing unfounded and categorically inaccurate assertions against the North Shore School District Clerk, Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Ciampi regarding the disclosure of personal information related to FOIL requests.

Mrs. Ciampi is a lifelong resident of Sea Cliff and has worked for this district for over 40 years. She is a person of the highest moral and ethical character. As per the below statement from the District's attorney, Mrs. Ciampi acted at the direction of the attorneys in full compliance with FOIL laws. Please see the below excerpt or click on the attached document link from counsel, which explains that at the time of the initial FOIL request in May 2020, the disclosure of information was required. Since that time, the law has changed, thus requiring a different response. These are the simple facts related to this matter. We never act capriciously and always follow the law.

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STATEMENT AND MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education
From: Frazer and Feldman, LLP
Date: April 6, 2021
Subject: Romano Facebook Post re: District Clerk and FOIL Requests for Directory Information

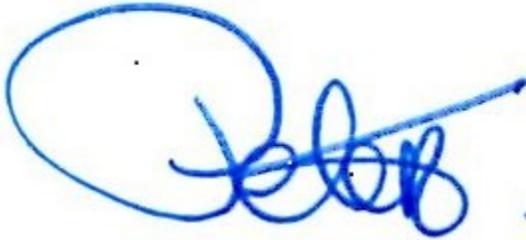
We have prepared this statement and memorandum per the request of the Board President to address Mr. Romano's false assertion that Ms. Elizabeth Ciampi, the District Clerk and Records Access Officer, "violated Federal and State Privacy Laws by providing a list" of directory information in response to a valid FOIL request submitted by the president of the North Shore Schools Federated Employees ("NSSF") on May 18, 2020. We understand that Mr. Romano has questioned the District Clerk's release of directory information in response to that earlier FOIL request, while his similar FOIL request submitted on or around January 28, 2021 was denied based on guidance issued by the SED Chief Privacy Officer dated August 5, 2020.

Contrary to Mr. Romano's assertions, it is our firm belief that Ms. Ciampi acted in accordance with law at the time each of these two FOIL requests were received and that she did so upon advice of the District's legal counsel.

[Statement to BOE re District Clerk 4.6.21 .pdf](#)

We normally would not comment on issues such as these. However, these irresponsible claims, if unanswered, have a bullying effect which we as a District and community will always reject.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'P' followed by several smaller, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Peter Giarrizzo

Superintendent of Schools