

LAW DEPARTMENT



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February 28, 2013

Greg Smith
89 Norwood Avenue
Newton, MA 02460

Re: *Various Public Records Requests Dated
February 20 and February 22, 2013*

Dear Mr. Smith:

I believe you currently have four pending public records requests addressed to the City of Newton Law Department. I will address each.

1. "Any comments or records which shed light on" your belief that the Law Department advocates against Newton families.

RESPONSE:

The public records law does not address comments and the Law Department will not be making any comments on your statements. Further responding, there are no documents responsive to your request.

2. Any records related to education or education law.

RESPONSE:

The Law Department has a full library of education law materials. Copying these materials may violate copyright laws and be

prohibited. In any event, the Law Department estimates there to be 100 volumes of approximately 500 pages each; a total of 50,000 pages. Copying costs at 20 cents per page would total \$10,000. Search and segregation costs for copying by the lowest paid employee capable of performing this task would be \$38.46/hour. Assuming five pages could be copied per minute, it would take approximately 167 hours to complete this task for a cost of \$6,422.82. Total costs would therefore be \$16,422.82.

3. Documents related to:

- seminars or other events on education law; including but not limited to invitations, agendas, subjects, handouts, and any communication before or after.

RESPONSE:

The Law Department has attended seminars on education law since September 1, 2011. Copying these materials may violate copyright laws and be prohibited. In any event, the Law Department estimates there to be at least 600 pages. Copying costs at 20 cents per page would total \$120.00. Search and segregation costs for copying by the lowest paid employee capable of performing this task would be \$38.46/hour. Assuming five pages could be copied per minute, it would take approximately two hours to complete this task for a cost of \$76.92. Total costs would therefore be \$196.92.

- networking or communication with other education law attorneys.

RESPONSE:

Such networking and communication has been in person or by phone. Therefore, there are no records responsive to this request.

4. Documents related to:

- training of Newton Public Schools (NPS) staff, including training materials and research related to training.

RESPONSE:

There has been training of NPS staff since September 1, 2011. However, there are no documents responsive to this request.

- summer projects or other training activities which list things on which to refresh principals and assistant principals.

RESPONSE:

There are no additional documents responsive to this request.

- requests for training by NPS staff.

RESPONSE:

Any requests for training have been by phone. Therefore, there are no records responsive to this request.

- communications related to possible trainers or related to choosing trainers and subjects.

RESPONSE:

There are no records responsive to this request.

Very truly yours,

Donnalyn B. Lynch Kahn

Donnalyn B. Lynch Kahn (dsk)
City Solicitor