
From: Foster, James H
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 4:59 PM
To: Dowling, John R
Cc: Staton, Jennifer A
Subject: FOIA response

August 9, 2019

John Dowling
27 Cypress Run
Bluffton, SC 29909

Dear Mr. Dowling:

We are in the final stages of completing the school district's response to your amended FOIA request for invoices received during the 2018, 2019 and 2020 fiscal years showing payment information for the McNair Law Firm; SCAGO; Burr, Forman McNair; Frannie Heizer; Brian Nurick; and William Saunders.

The first five law firms, persons or organizations specified in your request (McNair through Nurick) were not paid for their work on bond issues through the issuing of invoices. Rather, they were paid out of the proceeds of individual bond issuances. We will be forwarding to you final bond funding schedules for FY18-20. These schedules include fund disbursements to the parties of interest in your request.

Unrelated to bond issues, we will be sending invoices related to the McNair firm's legislative/consulting work on behalf of the Board of Education, and also invoices relating to easement, property and Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) matters.

The district has no invoices from William Saunders, who is a salaried employee of the district and does not bill the district for his work. Although he was not an employee of the district during all of the time covered by your FOIA request, he submitted no invoices during the period when he worked elsewhere.

Taking into consideration that there could be a misunderstanding with terminology – specifically, the word “invoices” – I will telephone you to clarify that portion of your request so that we can include additional responsive material if needed.

Finally, the district has additional invoices that may be responsive to your request but which may require redactions due to FOIA exemptions that fall under attorney/client privilege. This final group of invoices is being reviewed.

We anticipate sending you the items described above early next week. Following your receipt of the information, please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,
Jim Foster
Director of Communications

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